

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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road to  
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Volume 2, No. 272 © SS 2005 MIDEAST EDITION

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 2005

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## Staying together while far apart

Army programs  
aim at keeping  
marriages  
strong through  
the strain of  
deployments

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Chaplains with the 173rd Airborne Brigade have instituted counseling programs to help servicemembers and their spouses keep their commitments to each other strong during — and after — deployments.

File photo

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MORGAN LOOSE/Stars and Stripes

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## NewsTracker ... What's new with old news

### States

**Washington gubernatorial vote:** More than two months after Washington voters cast their ballots, Republican Dino Rossi is hoping the courts will give them another chance to pick their next governor.

Rossi and the state GOP announced Friday they will contest the gubernatorial election that gave Rossi's Democratic foe, Christine Gregoire, a 129-vote victory.

Republicans filed a lawsuit contesting the election in Chelan County, in north-central Washington. GOP attorney Harry Korrell said Republicans would not seek to block Gregoire's inauguration, scheduled for Wednesday. Democrats said the state constitution won't allow a revote.



Rossi

**Death penalty lawsuit:** A confessed serial killer set to become the first inmate executed in New England in 40 years urged a federal judge Friday to dismiss efforts by the inmate's father and a civil liberties group to spare his life.

"I don't need anyone filing on my behalf," Michael Ross told Judge Christopher Droney via closed circuit television from Osborn Correctional Institution in Somers, Conn. "I can file my own lawsuits if I wish."

The Connecticut Civil Liberties Union and Ross' father, Dan, argue Connecticut's method of lethal injection amounts to cruel and unusual punishment, and violates international treaties on torture and civil rights.

**Peterson murders:** The five people who are earning a \$50,000 reward for finding the bodies of Laci Peterson and her fetus have been chosen to stay out of the spotlight, but Laci Peterson's mother nonetheless offered them her gratitude Friday.

"You could have chosen to keep on walking," Sharon Rocha said, her voice trembling at a news conference where the Carole Sund Carrington Foundation formally presented the reward. "You didn't. You did the right thing. For that we will be eternally grateful."

None of the five reward recipients attended the event, according to the Modesto (Calif.) Bee. But Rocha said their grisly deaths around the shore of San Francisco Bay nearly two years ago brought a measure of peace and closure to her family.

Scott Peterson, 32, Laci Peterson's husband, was convicted in November of murdering his pregnant wife and dumping her body in San Francisco Bay as he pretended to fish alone on Christmas Eve 2002.

**Triplet custody battle:** A judge on Friday awarded final legal custody to a surrogate mother in Erie, Pa., who gave birth to triplets and then refused to give them up, saying the biological father and his fiancée showed a lack of interest.

In his ruling, Erie County Judge Shad Connelly said Danielle Bimber, 30, "is the better caretaker by far."

Connelly had already named Bimber the legal mother of the three boys, who were born Nov. 19, 2003, and granted her temporary primary custody last year.

**Clergy sex abuse:** The Archdiocese of Portland, Ore., has begun running ads in major U.S. newspapers alerting alleged victims of clergy sex abuse to an April 29 deadline to make claims in most cases.

The \$250,000 worth of ads, required as part of the church's bankruptcy proceedings, will run in 21 newspapers, including The Wall Street Journal and USA Today, over the next three weeks.

**JonBenet Ramsey death:** A federal judge



**Falun Gong protest:** A Taiwanese Falun Gong practitioner is handcuffed to a prison door Saturday during a skit held outside the Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall in Taipei, Taiwan. About 3,000 Falun Gong members formed a human chain 4 miles long through Taipei on Saturday to protest persecution of the group's followers in China. The protesters, who demonstrated despite rain, dubbed their chain the "Great Wall of Justice." Beijing says Falun Gong is an "evil cult" that threatens to sabotage social order and has arrested thousands of followers since it outlawed the group in 1999.

has tossed out a lawsuit filed by the parents of JonBenet Ramsey against Fox News Channel, saying a network report unfavorable to the couple was not defamatory.

Judge Philip Figa suggested that John and Patsy Ramsey seek vindication "in the court of public opinion."

In a ruling made public Friday, Figa said litigation in defamation cases could chill constitutionally protected free speech rights and because of that, the facts in such cases must be established with "convincing clarity."

The lawsuit was filed over a December 2002 story that aired around the six-year anniversary of the 6-year-old girl's slaying.

### Military

**Abu Ghraib abuse trial:** A terror suspect captured by Navy SEALs in Iraq was able to walk on his own and was resisting his captors when the CIA took custody of him, according to a Navy officer who said he was the last SEAL to see the prisoner alive.

Testimony at a military hearing for a Navy SEAL lieutenant charged with assault and maltreatment indicated that Manadel al-Jamadi died a short time later in the shower room of Abu Ghraib prison while he was being interrogated by the CIA.

Friday's testimony from a Navy SEAL lieutenant commander who oversaw the operation to capture al-Jamadi contradicted statements about the operation by a disgraced ex-SEAL. The former SEAL has stated that the prisoner was "lifeless" when he was left at Abu Ghraib following a severe beating by the SEALs.

### World

**North Korea nuclear talks:** A U.S. congressman who arrived in North Korea on Saturday said he will discuss the communist government's nuclear program and human rights issues during talks with officials in Pyongyang.

"I anticipate meeting with North Korean officials, discussing about the nuclear program, hopefully their reintegration into the international community and human rights matters," said Congressman Tom Lantos, the ranking Democrat on the House International Relations Committee.

Lantos' trip comes days ahead of a separate visit by U.S. lawmakers. A bipartisan congressional delegation organized by Re-

publican Curt Weldon of Pennsylvania is to meet with high-ranking government officials and visit schools, shopping centers and other community areas in Pyongyang next week.

**Pakistan violence:** At least 11 people were killed in sectarian clashes in a northern Pakistani city on Saturday, prompting authorities to impose a curfew and summon troops to restore order, officials said.

The shooting and wounding of a prominent Shiite Muslim leader early Saturday triggered the violence between his supporters and Sunni Muslims in the Himalayan city of Gilgit, about 150 miles north of the capital, Islamabad.

Hundreds of Shiites angered by the shooting of cleric Agha Ziauddin and two of his security guards by unidentified gunmen as they traveled in a car had gone on a rampage, burning government buildings and attacking shops belonging to Sunnis, Police official Mohammed Sadaqat said.

**African Union summit:** African heads of state will meet in Nigeria later this month for a twice-yearly African Union summit that will focus on continent hotspots Congo, Sudan and Ivory Coast, officials said Saturday.

All 53 African Union heads of state have been invited to the Jan. 30-31 summit in the capital, Abuja, said Nigerian foreign ministry official Florentina Okungu.

**Sudan crisis:** A southern Sudanese rebel leader speaking the day before he is to sign a historic peace agreement with the government, said Saturday he will not send his forces to fight in the western Darfur region to end a worsening crisis there.

John Garang, leader of the Sudan People's Liberation Army, said that despite the peace deal he has reached with the government after 21 years of civil war, he does not consider his country to be at peace until all fighting has stopped.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



Garang

# 3 senior officials abducted

## Iraqis: U.S. attack killed 14, wounded 5

By DUSAN STOJANOVIC

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Militants abducted three senior Iraqi officials, beheaded a man who worked for the U.S. military and killed at least eight others, officials said Saturday, a day after a U.S. general warned that insurgents may be planning "horrific" attacks ahead of Jan. 30 elections.

Also Saturday, an explosion at a house south of Mosul killed 14 people and wounded five early Saturday, and the owner blamed a U.S. air attack. A U.S. military spokesman said the Americans were compiling information on the incident and would have a statement later Saturday.

The house owner, Ali Yousef, said the airstrike happened at about 2:30 a.m. in this village 30 miles south of Mosul. American troops immediately came and surrounded the area, blocking access for four hours.

The brick house was reduced to a pile of rubble, according to an Associated Press photographer at the scene. By evening Saturday, all 14 dead had been buried in a nearby cemetery, Yousef said.

Air Force Brig. Gen. Erv Lessel, deputy chief of staff for strategic communications, said Friday the United States has no intelligence indicating specific plots by the militants. But he said American leaders expect a rise in attacks.

"I think a worst case is where they have a series of horrific attacks that cause mass casualties in some spectacular fashion in the days leading up to the elections," Lessel said.

The escalating insurgency in Iraq is believed to be led by minority Sunnis, who dominated the country during Saddam Hussein's regime. The militants are against a landmark election later this month.

In the election — the first democratic vote in Iraq since the country was formed in 1932, the Sunnis are certain to lose their dominance to the Shiites, who comprise 60 percent of Iraq's 26 million people.



Iraqi policemen and residents gather around the bullet-riddled vehicle of municipal council member Majid Hilar al-Tamimi in the southern city of Basra on Saturday. Al-Tamimi was seriously injured and one of his guards was killed after unknown assailants opened fire at them outside the city hall.

This week has seen a string of assassinations, suicide car bombings and other assaults that killed nearly 100 people, mostly Iraqi security troops, who are seen by the militants as collaborators with the American occupiers.

Authorities in Saddam's hometown of Tikrit said Saturday that gunmen abducted a deputy governor of a central Iraqi province, two other senior officials and their driver as they were returning from a meeting with Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, Iraq's most prominent Shiite leader, in the holy city of Najaf to discuss national elections.

The delegation was stopped and the members kidnapped about 40 miles south of Baghdad on Friday. The area is in the so-called "triangle of death," a string of Sunni-controlled towns that have been the scene of frequent attacks.

The U.S. military said the delegation was traveling in two cars of which one managed to escape the militants' ambush. "Those insurgents and terrorists who intimidate and resort to kidnapping public officials are the true enemies of the Iraqi people," said U.S. military spokesman Maj. Neal O'Brien.

Meanwhile, an official with Iraq's Interior Ministry said the ministry has launched a search operation for a missing French journalist and her translator, amid a possible witness account that they were abducted in downtown Baghdad.

Florence Aubeas, a reporter for the daily newspaper Liberation, and translator

Hussein Hanoun al-Saadi were last seen Wednesday morning leaving Aubeas' hotel in the Iraqi capital.

The Interior Ministry official said that so far they have no information or leads on their whereabouts.

"We have formed a fact-find working team to gather information about the Aubeas and al-Saadi, the official said on condition of anonymity.

In Baquba, insurgents beheaded a translator who was working with the U.S. army after breaking into his house, police said Saturday. An Iraqi policeman was killed by masked gunmen as he was leaving his house the southern Dora neighborhood of Baghdad.

Col. Khamees Jassim Khabrit, a ranking police official in the tense city of Ramadi was gunned down and his car was set ablaze, police said. Another senior police official, Lt. Col. Abed Ahmed, who supervised police operations in the volatile Anbar province, was shot dead on a street in central Ramadi.

A body-trapped car blew up Saturday at a gas station on Mahawel, about 35 miles south of Baghdad. One man was killed and several others were injured, police said.

In Baghdad's western neighborhood of Khadra, gunmen killed Abboud Khalaf al-Lahibi, deputy secretary-general of the National Front for Iraqi tribes — a group representing several Iraqi tribes — his aide, Ibrahim al-Farhan, said. A bodyguard was killed and three others wounded in the attack, he said.

# U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Friday, at least 1,350 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,056 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is eight higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. Friday.

The British military has reported 76 deaths: Italy, 19; Poland, 16; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,212 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 947 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military: ■ No deaths reported.

The latest identifications reported by the Defense Department and the Louisiana National Guard:

Killed Thursday by a roadside bomb in northwest Baghdad; assigned to the Army National Guard, 256th Infantry Brigade, 2nd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment, Lafayette, La.

■ Army Spc. Bradley Bergeron, Houma, La.

■ Army Sgt. Christopher Babin, Houma, La.

■ Army Pfc. Armand Frickey, Houma, La.

■ Army Spc. Warren Murphy, Marana, La.

■ Army Spc. Huey Fassbender, LaPlace, La.

■ Army Sgt. 1st Class Kurt Comeaux, Raceland, La.

Killed Tuesday in Taji, Iraq, when an explosive detonated near their vehicle:

■ Army Spc. Jimmy D. Bue, 44, Florissant, Mo., assigned to the National Guard's 3rd Battalion, 153rd Infantry Regiment, 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Fordyce, Ark.

■ Army Spc. Joshua S. Marcum, 33, Evening Shade, Ark., assigned to the National Guard's 3rd Battalion, 153rd Infantry Regiment, 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Camden, Ark.

■ Army Spc. Jeremy W. McHaffrey, 28, Maheshville, Ark., assigned to the National Guard's 39th Infantry Brigade, Little Rock, Ark.

■ Marine Sgt. Zachariah S. Davis, 25, Twenty-nine Palms, Calif.; killed Thursday in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Twenty-nine Palms, Calif.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Julio C. Cisneros, 25, Alvarez, 22, Pharr, Texas; killed Thursday in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Twenty-nine Palms, Calif.

■ Army Sgt. Bennie J. Washington, 25, Atlanta; died Tuesday in Brooke Army Medical Center, San Antonio in injuries sustained Oct. 14 in Ramadi, Iraq, when his vehicle was struck by a mine; assigned to the 44th Engineer Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Hawize, Korea.

■ Army Pfc. Curtis L. Wooten III, 20, Spaworth, Wash.; died Tuesday in Balad, Iraq, when an explosive detonated near his vehicle; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 7th Armor Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, Schweinfurt, Germany.

# No bombshells in U.N. oil-for-food audits

By KEN GUGGENHEIM

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The United Nations' long-refused internal audits on the oil-for-food program do not reveal any bombshells, investigators told congressional aides Friday ahead of next week's release of the reports.

The 56 audits have been a source of contention between the United Nations and members of Congress examining allegations of corruption in the program. U.N. officials have declined to release the audits while a three-member commission appointed by Secretary-General Kofi Annan conducts its own investigation.

That refusal made lawmakers suspi-

cious that the audits pointed to widespread problems. It also contributed to criticism of Annan over the program and to one senator's calls for his resignation.

The commission, headed by former Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker, announced Friday that it would release reports to the public Monday. Volcker is expected to issue a preliminary report this month that will include an analysis of the audits.

Two congressional aides, speaking on condition of anonymity, said congressional staff members were told by Volcker's investigators that the audits didn't reveal rampant corruption.

In an interview with The New York Times published Friday, Volcker was

quoted as saying the audits "don't prove anything." There's no flaming red flags in this stuff," he said.

The \$60 billion oil-for-food program was created as a humanitarian exemption to sanctions imposed on Iraq after the 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Beginning in 1996, it allowed Saddam Hussein's government to sell oil and use the proceeds to buy food, medicine and other items.

The program is widely credited with preventing starvation in Iraq, but investigations by congressional auditors and CIA weapons inspector Charles Duelfer found that it was riddled with corruption. They said Saddam received kickbacks and bribed U.N. and foreign government officials in an attempt to build political momentum against the sanctions.

# Mobile assault platoons keep roads safe

## Marines patrol roads between Hit and Hadithah for insurgent activity

BY JOSEPH GIORANDO

Stars and Stripes

HADITHAH, Iraq — Marines are aggressively targeting insurgents who plant roadside bombs and land mines along what's called the "Hit-Hadithah Corridor," a strategic stretch of desert roads running along the Euphrates River northwest of Fallujah.

The roads are used by both sides in the conflict: the U.S. military runs patrols and supply convoys; the insurgents use them to transport money, fighters and munitions in Al Anbar province.

Assembled in mobile assault platoons, or MAPs, Marines from the 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment spend long, cold patrols keeping the routes clear. From Humvees on the roads or observation posts on high ground overlooking the corridor, the Marines watch for people planting roadside bombs or other explosive devices.

And increasingly, they look for suicide car bombers.

"That's the only thing left of that guy," said Sgt. William Henderson, platoon sergeant of MAP 3, pointing to charred bits of twisted metal off the side of the road Thursday. The day before, a sedan painted with the orange-and-white markings of Iraqi taxicabs detonated as a U.S. convoy passed.

In that attack, only the suicide bomber was killed.

On a typical patrol, the MAP teams spend 12 hours combing the roads, checking for indications of freshly laid munitions and searching suspect vehicles. The insurgents, Marines say, tend to strike in the same spots, so careful attention is paid to sev-

eral intersections and stretches of road.

On Thursday, a howling, bitterly cold wind made for a long patrol for MAP 3. Henderson and Cpl. Ben McGuire, a 25-year-old from Red Oak, Texas, took turns halting traffic while other Marines inspected the routes. Several times, warning shots were fired at vehicles acting erratically or getting too close to the Marines.

"I don't worry about the mortars or the IEDs. I worry about the VBIEDs," the military's acronym for vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices, said Lance Cpl. John Knepper, a 20-year-old from Austin, Texas.

Knepper has seen firsthand what the car bombs can do. A few weeks back, a suicide bomber detonated less than 30 yards from a group of Marines; several were injured by shrapnel, but most were saved from serious injury by a thick stone wall.

"That was the biggest explosion I've ever seen. It was incredible," said Knepper, who still has pieces of shrapnel in his arm from a land mine encountered on a different patrol.

Late in the afternoon, the Marines of MAP 3 pulled off the roads and patrolled near an old Iraqi military outpost. Nearby, then found a terrain model made of small stones on the desert floor, an arrow pointed north, and other lines of stones formed buildings and roads. The Marines guessed it was made by insurgents.

The patrol then occupied a strategic overlook, using high-powered optics to watch the traffic below. Traffic in the area has picked up in recent days, the Marines said, as many locals start the Hajj, the annual Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca.



PHOTOS BY JOSEPH GIORANDO

Stars and Stripes

**Above:** Marines from Mobile Assault Platoon 3 check out the terrain map they found in the desert near Hadithah, Iraq, northwest of Fallujah. They suspect it is used by insurgents to track U.S. military movements and plan attacks. **Right:** Sgt. William Henderson, of the 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, keeps an eye on roads near Hadithah.

The Marines watched for people dropping or burying explosive devices on the roads, and also for vehicles bearing the hallmarks of car bombs: erratic driving, single occupants, cars riding low to the ground.

They radioed suspicious vehicles to a nearby sniper team, also tracking the roads and ready to stop anyone wanting to make this piece of the corridor a little more dangerous.

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# Bombs can wrack troops' nerves as well as bodies

BY JASON CHUDY

Stars and Stripes



JASON CHUDY/Stars and Stripes

**Pvt. Richard Martinez** of Company B, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, holds up three pieces of a 152 mm artillery round that blew up alongside of his patrol recently. None of the soldiers were injured nor were any of their vehicles damaged.

BAGHDAD, Iraq — When a vehicle patrol from Company B of the 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment was struck by a roadside bomb Tuesday morning, the soldiers — none of whom were injured in the blast — literally picked up the pieces of the artillery round and moved on.

The platoon didn't have time to dwell on the incident; the patrol schedule wouldn't allow it.

"We've still got to continue doing patrols," said Pfc. John Howell, a machine gunner on the Humvee closest to the explosion. "So that takes priority."

But just because there were no physical injuries does not mean the soldiers were not affected by the explosion. Army officials know soldiers can be rattled by the blasts, and their performance harmed.

"Early on we kept a big eye on" the soldiers on patrol after a

bomb went off, said Company B 1st Sgt. Freddy Kral. ("Roadside bombs" are not a common thing, but they've happened before."

Now, he said, the unit, deployed to Iraq from Fort Hood, Texas, relies on the noncommissioned officers at the platoon level to notify leaders if any problems develop. They have the closest day-to-day interaction with the junior soldiers and will best notice any changes in them.

"[If they say] the soldier needs to talk to someone about it, we trust their instincts," Kral said.

Many of the soldiers left Tuesday's bombing pass without much discussion. That patrol is over and they had another to run less than eight hours.

"I really don't talk about it unless someone brings it up," said Spc. George Ernie.

When the soldiers do talk about similar incidents, the discussion ranges from casual to cautious. "Nobody jokes about it," said

Ernie. The stakes are too high to take the bombs too lightly.

Company B has not suffered a casualty to a roadside bomb, Kral said. "I think not having had a casualty yet has lent itself to the soldiers not being happy [about being possible targets], but not being fearful about traveling through their sectors," he said.

That evening another patrol — with mostly the same soldiers as the early morning run — went out to that same area. The soldiers didn't dwell on the chance of there being another bomb.

"The possibility of one being out there is always there," said Ernie. "It's not something we really think about."

The soldiers just hope that they make it safely through their remaining tour in Iraq.

"The insurgents only have to be lucky once," said Sgt. Michael Wilbanks. "We have to be lucky every day. That's the unfortunate truth."

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# GI acquitted of manslaughter in drowning

BY ANGELA K. BROWN  
The Associated Press

FORT HOOD, Texas — A U.S. Army sergeant was acquitted Friday of involuntary manslaughter in the alleged drowning of an Iraqi civilian who was forced into the Tigris River by U.S. soldiers for violating curfew.

The jury, however, convicted Army Sgt. 1st Class Tracy Perkins, 33, of assault in the January 2004 incident.

Defense attorneys contended the victim may still be alive, but say if he is dead, it was not at the hands of U.S. soldiers.

The jury of Army officers and enlisted members, who deliberated 17 hours over two days, were allowed to consider lesser charges against Perkins, who has been

## But soldier is guilty of assault in Tigris River incident

in the military for 14 years.

Perkins and another soldier were accused of ordering soldiers to push two



Perkins

prosecutors say Zaidoun Hassoun, 19, drowned and his cousin, Marwan Hassoun, climbed out the river.

Marwan Hassoun testified that he and his cousin were detained while driving back to Sa-

marra with plumbing supplies, then forced at gunpoint into the river as U.S. soldiers laughed.

He said he tried to save his cousin by grabbing his hand, but the powerful current swept Zaidoun away. Marwan said the body was found in the river nearly two weeks later.

But three soldiers called by the defense testified that they were looking through night-vision equipment that night and saw two Iraqis on the river bank after the incident.

Sgt. Irene Cintron, an Army instructor, testified that government officials never had Zaidoun's body exhumed for testing because of security concerns. She

said she could not confirm whether the corpse shown in a video provided by the family was Zaidoun's.

Perkins was convicted of assault consummated by battery in Zaidoun's purported death, which carries a maximum sentence of six months. He was convicted of aggravated assault in connection with Marwan Hassoun.

Perkins also was convicted of obstruction of justice and aggravated assault for ordering a soldier to throw another Iraqi man into the river in December 2003 near Balad.

The sentencing phase of the trial was scheduled to begin Saturday. Perkins' penalty ranges from

no punishment to 1½ years.

Defense attorney Capt. Josh Norris said in closing arguments that the soldiers were trying to find non-lethal ways to deter crime and establish respect in the hostile area.

No soldiers disputed that the two Iraqis were forced into the river. Soldiers testifying for the prosecution and defense said they never heard Perkins order the Iraqis into the river and that he stayed in his vehicle that night.

The soldiers said the orders came from Army 1st Lt. Jack Saville, the platoon leader, who is to be tried in March on the same charges as Perkins — as well as a conspiracy charge. His trial was postponed until March after a judge ordered the victim's body to be exhumed for an autopsy and identification.

## Afghan judge detained for terror connections

BY STEPHEN GRAHAM  
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghan authorities have arrested a judge in connection with the car-bombing of a U.S. security company that killed at least 10 people, and suspect the attack was ordered by an Iraqi al-Qaida member, a senior official said Saturday.

Three Americans were among

those killed in the Aug. 29 blast outside the office of DynCorp, an American contractor which provides bodyguards for President Hamid Karzai and trains Afghan police.

Naqibullah, a 65-year-old preliminary court judge, was detained about two weeks ago after two men accused of organizing the bombing told investigators they had lodged at the judge's house in the Afghan capital, said Gen. Abdul Fatah, a senior Afghan prosecutor.

"He is accused of two things. First, he let the terrorists stay in his house. Second, he was aware of their activities but didn't inform anyone," Fatah told The Associated Press.

Naqibullah, who like many Afghans goes by one name, was the head of a preliminary court in the Panjshir Valley, north of Kabul, Fatah said.

Intelligence officials have identified the alleged ringleader of the car-bombing, and of an Oct. 23 suicide attack on a Kabul street which killed an American woman and an Afghan girl, as Mohammed Haider.

Haider, a Tajik national, has allegedly confessed to orchestrating both attacks, Fatah said in an accomplice, Abdul Ahad, was arrested along with him. Both Ahad and Naqibullah hail from the same district of Afghanistan's Kapisa province, he said.

The suicide bomber and the two organizers "stayed in his (Naqibullah's) house all the time, from the beginning to the end of their mission," spanning both attacks, Fatah said.

Intelligence officials have said that Haider organized the attacks on the instructions of a suspected al-Qaida member named Attallah based in Peshawar, in neighboring Pakistan.

Fatah said Attallah was an Iraqi national and identified the suicide bomber as a Kashmiri named Akbar.

## Helping out Iraqi children



Courtesy of U.S. Army

The Al Salama Organization, in coordination with the 1st Infantry Division-led Task Force Danger, delivers clothes, toys and other items donated by U.S. citizens to families in Kirkuk, Iraq, last week. Al Salama is Iraq's version of The Salvation Army, and it receives the supplies through Operation Crayon, a program started to school materials for Iraqi children. It delivered 300 packages last week and is to hand out an additional 300 to 500 packages in the next 20 days.

## Jury selected for trial of alleged ringleader of Abu Ghraib abuse

The Associated Press

FORT HOOD, Texas — The 10 men picked as jurors in the first Abu Ghraib prison abuse trial have all served in either Iraq or Afghanistan.

The four officers and six enlisted soldiers will hear opening statements Monday in the court-martial of Sgt. Charles Graner Jr., the reputed ringleader of the scandal. All are also stationed at Fort Hood.

They will determine whether Graner, 36, of Uniontown, Pennsylvania, was illegally beating inmates or following orders to soften up the detainees for interrogation.

"We could not pick a truer jury

of peers than to have a combat veteran tried by combat veterans," defense attorney Guy Womack said.

Womack plans to argue Graner was told by higher-ranking soldiers and intelligence agents to rough up the detainees and had no choice but to obey.

Graner, shown in some of the notorious photographs taken inside the Baghdad prison, was upheld all the jury was picked Friday.

Under military court rules, Graner can be convicted only if at least seven of the jurors vote guilty on charges that include conspiracy to maltreat Iraqi detainees, assault, dereliction of duty and committing indecent acts.

Graner appears in one photo

giving a thumbs-up behind a pile of naked Iraqis. In another, he is coking his fist as if to punch a detainee.

On Thursday night, Graner gave a different thumbs-up photo to Houston television station KTRK.

This one showed a smiling Graner with his arms around the shoulders of two Iraqis in orange jumpsuits, while a third Iraqi knelt in front.

Womack said the photo was taken with Graner's camera after the alleged abuse occurred. He said it was released after he and his client talked about how other photos from Abu Ghraib were taken out of context.

Prosecutors are not legally allowed to comment on the case.

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# Army tries to help war-torn marriages

## 173rd to benefit with new camps and retreats

BY KENT HARRIS  
Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy — When members of the Southern European Task Force (Airborne) head to Afghanistan in a few months, they'll be facing hostile conditions thousands of miles from their families.

But if local military leaders have their way, those soldiers won't be worrying about potentially hostile situations within their families.

"A soldier who is confident in the state of their marriage is a better soldier," says Chaplain (Maj.) David Beauchamp of the 173rd Airborne Brigade.



Beauchamp

"From a chaplain's viewpoint ... what's going to last longer, the Army career or the marriage? Hopefully the marriage is going to last longer."



Kircher

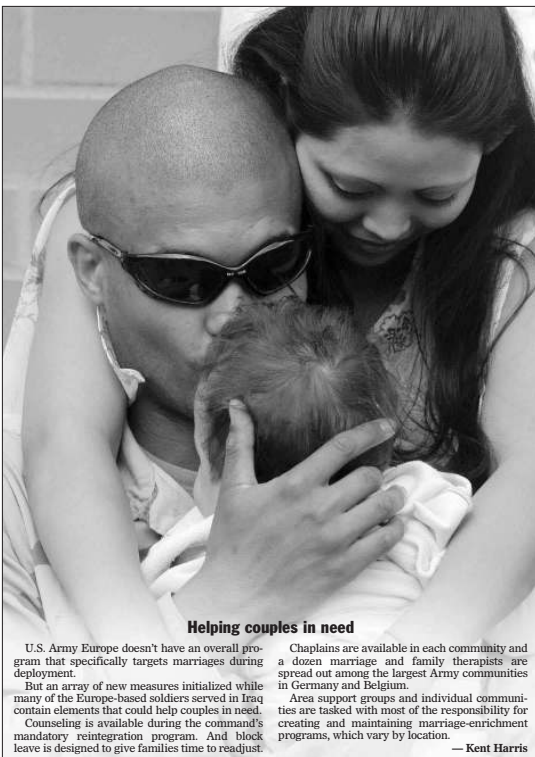
But in today's Army, where long deployments seem to be a never-ending prospect, marriages are thought to be more at risk. However, neither the 173rd — which spent a year in Iraq before returning last spring — SETAF, nor U.S. Army Europe keeps statistics on divorces to prove or disprove that theory.

Chaplain (Maj.) Leon Kircher, chaplain for the 22nd Area Support Group, which includes Vicenza, counseled some of the 173rd's couples who were having trouble during and after the deployment. He said some relationships did end in divorce.

"Not as many as I thought there could be," he said. "To say it was epidemic? No."

Both chaplains attribute that to a strong effort by the various agencies at Caserma Ederle charged with supporting families while troops are away. And both think the effort will be better for the upcoming deployment.

Couples will lead 300 couples — representing about a quarter of those married in the brigade — on overnight retreats at Lake Garda before the deployment. Col. Kevin Owens, the 173rd commander, allocated thousands of dollars from brigade funds to pay for the retreat. Younger enlisted



### Helping couples in need

U.S. Army Europe doesn't have an overall program that specifically targets marriages during deployment.

But an array of new measures initialized while many of the Europe-based soldiers served in Iraq contain elements that could help couples in need.

Counseling is available during the command's mandatory reintegration program. And block leave is designed to give families time to readjust.

Chaplains are available in each community and a dozen marriage and family therapists are spread out among the largest Army communities in Germany and Belgium.

Area support groups and individual communities are tasked with most of the responsibility for creating and maintaining marriage-enrichment programs, which vary by location.

— Kent Harris

soldiers and their spouses will get most of the spots.

"It's expensive," Beauchamp said. "But if we can save marriages, it's worth it."

Those participating will focus on communication, forgiveness and commitment, he said. Each partner will be given a commitment coin to carry during the deployment.

"It'll be a reminder to them that they've got responsibilities toward another person," he said. "Not only for the soldiers, but also their spouses."

In fact, Beauchamp said every married couple in the brigade would get a chance to participate in a commitment ceremony and receive a coin. Those not on the retreats can participate at the base chapel. The Protestant Women of the Chapel is sponsoring an event targeting couples Jan. 21-22 that's called "Battle Proofing Your Marriage."

During the deployment, Kircher

er said chaplains will be working on both ends to help couples in need. He said it will be possible to arrange phone sessions to counsel both partners together or separately.

The chapel plans to hold weekly gatherings for spouses with free child care so moms — and dads — can get together to eat, talk, shop or visit local sights. Kircher said he hopes the informal gatherings will give spouses a chance to share problems and solutions with one another.

The chapel also will sponsor monthly retreats for spouses during the deployment, focusing on potential problems and solutions.

"It's like tuning up a car," Kircher said. "Sometimes you don't even realize it, but something often goes wrong."

In the field, Beauchamp said he'll be leading a 40-week course using the best-selling inspirational book, "Purpose Driven Life." Kircher will be sending out com-

current messages to the community, so those on both sides can follow along.

After the deployment, couples can participate in the Army's "Building Strong and Ready Families" program. Dozens participated after the last deployment, Beauchamp said. And the chaplains hope there will be more opportunities this time if there's a need.

Kircher said commanders realize that helping soldiers keep good relationships with their spouses has become a key part of the deployment process.

"One thing that weighs on a soldier's mind is if their family is being taken care of," he said. "When they're out on a patrol or inspecting something, you don't want that to be the first thing on their minds. They've got to be focused on the job at hand."

E-mail Kent Harris at [harris@mail.esr.pentagon.mil](mailto:harris@mail.esr.pentagon.mil)

## \$2 million spent on spouse programs

BY KIMBERLY HEFLING  
The Associated Press

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky. — With studies showing divorce rates as high as 21 percent among couples where one spouse has been sent off to war, the Army is spending \$2 million on a variety of marriage programs, including vouchers for romantic getaways to places like the Opryland Hotel in Nashville, Tenn.

When Sgt. Jose Bermudez returned from Iraq early this year, he came home to a new baby and a troubled marriage. "We were on the brink of divorce," Mandy Bermudez acknowledged as the couple ate lunch recently with their three children, all under age 3.

Lt. Col. Chester Egert, chaplain for the Fort Campbell-based 101st Airborne Division

The Bermudezes were among 300 couples with the Fort Campbell-based 101st Airborne Division who have attended "marriage enrichment" seminars put on by the Army in hopes of saving war-ravaged relationships.

"I've been in the Army 20 years, and I've never seen the Army pay for programs like this," said Lt. Col. Chester Egert, chaplain for the 101st.

One program being implemented Army-wide teaches couples forgiveness and the skills to communicate.

It includes a 40-hour course with lessons on the dangers of alcohol and tobacco and how to recognize post-traumatic stress.

Soldiers who complete it are rewarded with promotion points and a weekend retreat with their spouse.

"If you learn those skills, you can make an impact on the number of divorces, and the number, we think, of reports of physical violence," said Col. Gen. Bloomstrom, director of ministry initiatives for the Chief of Chaplains.

# Lawmaker seeks name recognition for Marine Corps

BY LEO SHANE III

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A North Carolina congressman wants to change the Department of the Navy's name so that Marines, including those at two bases in his district, get full credit for their importance to national defense.

A bill proposed this week by Rep. Walter Jones, R-N.C., would rename the agency to "The Department of the Navy and Marine Corps." He says the change would clarify the corps' position as the fourth major defense branch, instead of implying that the Marines are somehow below the Army, Air Force and Navy.

"There isn't a subordinate relationship between the Chief of Naval Operations and the Commandant of the Marines Corps," Jones said. "They are equivalent parts of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and it is time that the Department

of the Navy recognizes their equal status."

Jones has brought up the issue in the last two legislative sessions, only to see the proposal stall in committee hearings before the full House of Representatives could vote on the measure.

Marine Corps officials had no comment on the legislation. Capt. Kevin Wensing, spokesman for Navy Secretary Gordon England, said the secretary has deflected the issue in the past, saying that he is honored to serve no matter what the department's name is.

But Wensing said England frequently jokes that Marines he has spoken with are opposed to the new name.

"They think he should be 'Secretary of the Marine Corps and Navy,'" he said. "They want top billing."

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

E-mail: Leo Shane at: shanel@stripes.osd.mil



The USS John C. Stennis, shown conducting missions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, is currently traveling from its former home in San Diego to its future home at Naval Base Kitsap in Bremerton, Wash.

## USS John C. Stennis en route to new homeport in Bremerton

BY MELANTHIA MITCHELL

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — As the USS Carl Vinson prepares to leave its homeport in Bremerton, the USS John C. Stennis is sailing in to take its place, bringing with it thousands of sailors and their families from its former base at San Diego.

"With the Vinson leaving, they wanted to replace it with another carrier," Navy spokeswoman Chief Petty Officer Jeri Robinson said, noting the Stennis is expected to remain at Naval Base Kitsap for about 10 years. Its strike group, however, will remain near San Diego at Naval Air Station North Island.

The aircraft carrier has spent the past six years in San Diego, where it departed Wednesday for its four-day journey north to its new home at the Bremerton base, across Puget Sound from Seattle.

The Nimitz-class carrier's planned arrival Saturday is also part of a regular rotation through

out the fleet. During its first 10 months, the Stennis will be moved to a dry dock at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard for long-awaited maintenance and updates, Robinson said.

The Stennis, commanded by Capt. David H. Buss, brings with it more than 2,500 sailors, over half of whom have families who have been moving to the Kitsap Peninsula since May.

Coordinating the move of so many people during the holidays and in the midst of a school year was a challenge, said Beth Wiruth, the carrier's command ombudsman, who moved in August.

"It's like moving a whole city. There's over 6,000 people involved when you move the sailors and their families," Wiruth said from her new housing at Naval Submarine Base Bangor, about 10 miles north of Bremerton.

The long stay will be a welcome reprieve for Wiruth and her husband, Petty Officer 1st Class Scott Wiruth, an electron-

ics technician who works on combat systems. The couple has moved five times in the 18 months they've been married, with him gone 70 percent of the time.

"I cannot wait to see that ship come around the bend," said Wiruth, who last saw her husband in November when the Stennis returned from a five-month deployment in the western Pacific. Other families have yet to be reunited.

"For many of these families, this is homecoming," she said.

The 1,092-foot Stennis recently participated in the Navy's new Fleet Response Plan. Exercises this summer had seven of the Navy's 12 carrier strike groups deployed simultaneously to test the feasibility of having multiple detachments at sea.

The USS Carl Vinson, based at Bremerton since 1997, this month begins a six-month deployment in the western Pacific. In November, the aircraft carrier and its 3,200 sailors head for Newport News, Va., for a 3 1/2-year refueling overhaul.

### Fort Benning insurance refunds

ATLANTA — A Texas-based insurance company has been ordered to refund \$1.3 million to Fort Benning, Ga., soldiers who were improperly sold life insurance policies.

American-Amicable Life Insurance Co. of Texas will refund money from premiums paid by about 900 active-duty soldiers at Fort Benning, said Georgia Insurance Commissioner John Oxendine, who ordered the refunds Friday. The policies were sold during 2002.

Refunds will include all sales of the Horizon Life policies, Oxendine said. The amounts of the refunds will depend on how much the soldiers paid.

Oxendine said the insurer broke federal and state rules against acting like disinterested financial planners while selling policies to soldiers in training.

### Nuclear sub runs aground

HONOLULU — A nuclear submarine ran aground about 350 miles south of Guam, injuring several sailors, one of them critically, the Navy said.

There were no reports of damage to the 360-foot submarine was headed back to its home port in Guam. Details on the sailors' injuries were not immediately available. The sub has a crew of 137, officials said.

Military and Coast Guard aircraft from Guam were en route to monitor the submarine and assist if needed, the Navy said.

From The Associated Press

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## IN THE WORLD

# Visitors complicate aid as toll passes 150,000

BY JOCELYN GECKER

The Associated Press

**BANDA ACEH, Indonesia** — Rescue workers extracted thousands of corpses from the mud and debris of tsunami-devastated coastal towns in Indonesia, pushing the rising death toll from the Asian disaster past 150,000 on Saturday.

Two weeks after walls of water flattened wide swaths of Indonesia's Sumatra island, people were still emerging from isolated villages, looking hungry and haunted. Staggered by the scale of the disaster, aid officials described plans to feed as many as 2 million survivors a day for six months.

Two Indonesian navy amphibious vessels pulled up on the beach Saturday among the wreckage of smashed boats. Hundreds of refugees lined up on the beach to go inside and unload supplies in Calang, where the tsunami killed 80 percent of the residents. The Indonesian military set up two field hospitals, one with 50 beds, the other with 20.

"The tragedy was terrible, but considering this, the survivors here now are in pretty good shape," said Dr. Steve Wignall, an

American who works for Family Health International and was making an on-the-ground assessment with several other aid workers.

In other areas, victims were more vulnerable, though health officials said there were no signs yet of major outbreaks of diseases that they have feared.

As aid poured into a region long troubled by separatist violence, Indonesian soldiers resumed patrols in Aceh province searching for rebels. Skirmishes are stoking fears the conflict could hamper the relief effort by dozens of international aid groups.

Problems persisted in coordinating the humanitarian efforts. Aid groups complained that dignitaries flying in to see the devastation have choked the tiny main airport and hampered relief supplies.

Visits by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan and U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell shut Banda Aceh's airport temporarily for security reasons.

"It slows things down," said Maj. Murad Khan, a spokesman for Pakistan's Tsunami Relief Task Force.

U.S. officials disputed the alle-

gation, saying Powell's plane took off immediately after dropping him off Wednesday so it wouldn't be in the way. He toured the area by helicopter, and Tim Gerhardt, a spokesman for the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta, said aid shipments continued to flow during that time.

A delegation of U.S. congressmen traveled to Banda Aceh later Saturday. They came by helicopter from the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier so they wouldn't disrupt other flights.

Annan toured a town in Sri Lanka where hundreds of shoppers at an outdoor weekly market were swept to their deaths, but reluctantly agreed to a government request to bypass stricken areas controlled by Tamil Tiger rebels.

The Tigers, who have fought a 20-year war for Tamil independence from the Sinhalese-dominated south, invited Annan to tour the northern province. But government officials said they couldn't guarantee Annan's safety there.

"I'm concerned about everyone with need in the humanitarian situation," Annan said. "But I'm also a guest of the government, and we'll go where we agreed we'll go."



Passing a tug boat that was washed up on a main coastal road by the massive tsunamis, a young girl carries supplies back to her village Saturday, just outside the capital of Aceh province in northwest Indonesia. The only road linking coastal cities on Sumatra was turned into an obstacle course by the tsunamis, complicating aid deliveries and turning what was a five-hour journey into a three-day day trek for victims of the disaster.

## World Bank considers increasing relief funds

The Associated Press

**COLOMBO, Sri Lanka** — The World Bank said Saturday it will consider significantly boosting its aid to countries stricken by the Asian tsunami.

The World Bank has already pledged \$175 million in assistance to the 11 countries in Asia and Africa hit by the Dec. 26 disaster, but bank President James Wolfensohn said he was flexible on the amount.

"We can go up to even \$1 billion to \$1.5 billion depending on the needs. ... Our immediate focus is to provide relief to the affected people," he told a news conference at the end of a one-day visit to Sri Lanka, where about 30,000 died.

The Sri Lankan government estimates it will need between \$1.3 billion and \$1.5 billion to rebuild the country. A large portion of the funds is expected to come from foreign donors and multilateral agencies.



Two U.S. Marines from 9th Engineer Support Battalion survey the village of Pitivella, near Galle, in southern Sri Lanka, on Saturday. The battalion is deploying about 250 Marines, along with bulldozers and dump trucks, to clear debris in the tsunami-ravaged coastal regions.

## 'An entirely different mission'

### Marines helping to clear debris on Sri Lanka's coast

BY CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA

The Associated Press

**HIKKADUWA, Sri Lanka** — Lt. Col. Edmund Bowen is a seasoned Marine who has served in the Persian Gulf and Somalia. But he now finds himself playing the role of peacetime aid worker in Sri Lanka's tsunami-ravaged regions.

"This is a stable country. This is an entirely different mission," said Bowen, one of 54 Marines clearing debris Saturday near this tourist town in southern Sri Lanka. None carried weapons or wore body armor. Instead of helmets, they donned caps.

The crew, based in Okinawa, Japan, is among 250 Marines sent by the 9th Engineer Support Battalion to take part in the massive relief effort in southern Sri Lanka. The USS Duluth was expected to arrive in a day or two with another 116 troops from the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, Bowen said.

"Marines are compassionate. We fight by the laws of war. If we turn on our kinder side, we bring a tremendous amount of speed and capability to a relief operation," Bowen said.

The assistance is part of a regional effort by the U.S. military, which is also flying supplies to survi-

vors in Aceh, the Indonesian province that was near the epicenter of the undersea earthquake that triggered the tsunami.

On Saturday, Bowen and his crew chose to start work in the village of Pitivella, which lost 16 of its 150 residents to the giant waves.

Framed photographs, fishing nets, bicycle wheels and slabs of concrete lay in the sand, as former residents watched the American bulldozer lumber over piles of rubble.

"It's good that the Marines are here. The damage is so bad that we can't do it alone," said D.V. Chaturanga, who lost his grandmother and his home. Other bystanders agreed, saying the U.S. forces were welcome.

With the help of a translator, Bowen talked to the community leaders, who asked that the debris be moved closer to the shoreline. Bowen described the decision as unsafe, saying another big wave would fling the rubble and endanger lives. But he agreed to their request when villagers said they had no plans to rebuild their homes in the same place because the government had forbidden it.

"This is a drop in the bucket," Bowen said, acknowledging the magnitude of the devastation.



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# Ragged survivors flock to Indonesian town

## 80 percent of Calang population died but stragglers coming in

By DENIS GRAY

The Associated Press

CALANG, Indonesia — Not a single building is left standing in Calang, where the tsunami killed 80 percent of the residents.

But the population is even higher now than before the disaster as weary survivors with little more than the clothes on their backs trudge in from the countryside for help.

Two weeks after walls of water flattened wide swaths of Indonesia's Sumatra island, people still are emerging from isolated villages, looking hungry and haunted by their experience.

Calang used to be a government center, about 55 miles southeast of Banda Aceh, before the tsunami flattened it, so it has become a natural magnet for refugees. While they are finding little more standing than in their home communities, the relief effort is mushrooming here.

Two Indonesian navy amphibious vessels were pulled up on the beach Saturday around the wreckage of smashed boats. Hundreds of refugees lined up on the beach to go inside and unload supplies.



Indonesian tsunami victims wait to be evacuated Saturday by Indonesian amphibious navy vessels in the destroyed town of Calang, 40 miles south west of Banda Aceh in the province of Aceh. Steve Wignall, a doctor for the Non Government Organization Family Health International, said that of Calang's population of 5,000, only 1,000 had survived.

The Indonesian military has set up two field hospitals, one with 50 beds, the other with 20.

"The tragedy was terrible, but considering this, the survivors here now are in pretty good shape," said Dr. Steve Wignall, an

American who works for Family Health International and was making an on-the-ground assessment with several other aid workers.

He estimated the town's pre-tsunami population at 5,000, but it was virtually

wiped off the map, and only about 1,000 people survived. Some 6,000 refugees have come in from isolated communities, and one group had just struggled in after walking 30 miles, he said.

U.S. helicopter pilot Lt. Fred Morrison of Hatley, Pa., flew in directly from the carrier USS Abraham Lincoln to distribute 4,200 pounds of water in plastic containers to three different sites, including Calang, where the only thing left of the houses were the foundations.

The second drop-off point was a small hillock set above what is now swampland. Refugees clinging to the outcrop came rushing down when the helicopter landed. The rest of the water went to a stretch of road that hadn't been destroyed by the tsunami where about 100 villagers have set up camp.

As the chopper headed back to the Lincoln, the crew spotted about 20 people on a road frantically waving, so they made a steep descent. Overcoming the language barrier, the survivors made their hunger clear by pointing to their stomachs and mouths. With nothing left to give, the helicopter took off again, noting the location.

"We're going to get water and food returned," said Petty Officer Sean Bassom of Moorpark, California.

Helicopters from the Lincoln carrier group delivered well over 125,000 pounds of food, water and other relief supplies, a record so far and was up from around 14,000 pounds on some early days, even though the same number of helicopters are being used.

# Powell holds frank AIDS talk with Kenyan youths

By ANNE GEARAN

The Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya — Promiscuity and other risky sexual behavior must change to stop the spread of AIDS in Africa, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said Saturday.

Young Kenyans, including an 11-year-old girl, had a frank discussion with Powell about promiscuity, resistance to condoms and the cultural expectation that young girls will have sex with much older men.

"These sorts of patterns of behavior have to change to protect young people," Powell told the gathering.

Powell is in Africa to attend a signing ceremony ending north-south fighting in Sudan. The two-decade-old conflict is Africa's longest-running civil war. Powell met with Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki after the AIDS round-table Saturday.

The Sudanese peace accord does not address the more recent fighting and violence crisis in Sudan's western Darfur region, which Powell has called genocide. He planned to press Sudanese government leaders to resolve the Darfur crisis during the weekend meetings.

About 7 percent of adult Kenyans are infected with HIV or have AIDS, a rate much higher than western nations but lower than some countries in southern Africa where 20 percent or more of the population is infected.

"I think, for too long a period of time ignored the problem, looked the other way and said 'No, this isn't happening

here,'" Powell said.

He criticized African countries, without naming them, that denied AIDS was a problem. Powell also noted former South African President Nelson Mandela's disclosure this week that his son died of complications from AIDS.

"More and more people are willing to speak out about this and not hide," Powell said.

AIDS kills more than 600 people every day in South Africa.

Mandela's successor, Thabo Mbeki, once denied knowing anyone who had died of the disease.

Powell sat in a circle with 19 Kenyans, most in their teens and 20s, who work to prevent HIV transmission among their peers. The discussion included blunt discussion of sexual and cultural practices, including what 24-year-old Bonface Mwendwa described as social pressure for young women to have sex with "people we call sugar daddies."

Older men are much more likely than young girls or women to carry the disease, and older men-to-younger-women is a major source of transmission in Kenya and elsewhere. "Are you getting through to the young people, or do you say you're square?" Powell asked.

Reception is better now than it used to be, Powell was told. Abstinence, faithfulness to a single partner and condom use are discussed much more openly than a few years ago, and more Kenyans are open about their HIV



U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell talks to young Kenyans about HIV and AIDS at a hotel in Nairobi, Kenya, on Saturday.

status. At least one of the young women who spoke to Powell on Saturday is HIV positive.

The anti-AIDS message starts early. Eleven-year-old Grace Gathoni is a member of the Brownie patrol at her elementary school.

"She came to the meeting dressed in her uniform."

"We learn about HIV and AIDS, and sexually transmitted diseases" at school, she said. "We are also taught to value our virginity, our education and our life."

Before arriving in Nairobi on Friday, Powell spent five days touring countries hit by last month's killer tsunami. He said he will give President Bush a report Monday on the tsunami damage and U.S. aid to the region.

# Palestinians upset over travel trouble

The Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank — International observers toured army roadblocks in the West Bank and Gaza Strip on Saturday, and Palestinian officials complained Israel isn't fully complying with promises to ease travel restrictions ahead of presidential elections to replace the late Yasser Arafat.

At one Gaza checkpoint, hundreds of cars were waiting early Saturday. Palestinians reported that a 60-year-old taxi passenger was killed by army fire at the barrier. The army said soldiers fired at a gunman approaching on foot.

Later Saturday, traffic eased considerably at the Gaza checkpoint, but one driver said he had to wait for 25 minutes even when he was first in line.


Israeli military officials said efforts were made to speed up passage through roadblocks, but that security remains the top priority.

On Friday, Palestinian gunmen killed a soldier and wounded three in an ambush near the West Bank city of Nablus, prompting Israel to warn Palestinian leaders that they would reconsider its promise if an easing of restrictions is exploited by militants.

Israel delivered the warning through international observers headed by former President Jimmy Carter and former French Prime Minister Michel Rocard, according to Israeli officials and a spokesman for Carter's team, Les Campbell.

Observer teams were whether restrictions were being eased, Campbell said.

Palestinian Cabinet minister Saeb Erekat said nothing had changed on the ground. "I urge the Israeli government to honor its commitment to lift the siege and restrictions. This is really threatening to undermine free and fair elections," he said.



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## IN THE STATES

## Snow pounds Calif. as Ohio faces flooding

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Another winter blast spread snow and heavy, snowy snow across California on Saturday as residents of waterlogged areas that were stripped by wildfires braced for flash flooding and mudslides.

As much as 6 feet of snow was possible during the weekend in the northern Sierra Nevada, delighting skiers, while homeowners rushed to pile sandbags in Southern California, where some neighborhoods below the San Bernardino Mountains east of Los Angeles received more than a half-inch of rain every hour.

"I used to love the rain," said Dallas Brascone of San Bernardino County's Devore area. "Now, I dread all these storms."

In the East, heavy rain and snow that fell earlier in the week caused flooding along the Ohio River that was chasing some residents out of their homes in communities in West Virginia, Ohio and Kentucky. Meteorologists predicted the river would reach its highest level in eight years at Louisville, Ky.

The stormy weather had caused widespread power outages in parts of Ohio, and utilities said about 100,000 homes and businesses remained without electricity on Saturday.

California's latest storm arrived Thursday and wasn't expected to let up until Monday, the National Weather Service said.

The mild weather knocked out power for thousands of homes and businesses and blocked mountain roads. One person died in a sailboat smashed by wind and waves and two resort workers in the Sierra were found dead in a snow-covered car.



Homeowners were especially concerned in San Bernardino County foothill towns that were devastated by wildfires and mudslides in 2003.

"You can only do so much," said Thom Master of Devore. "If 2 feet of mud comes, these little sandbags aren't going to do much."

Along the Ohio River, hundreds of Ohio and West Virginia residents had evacuated their homes and stacked sandbags.

The river was nearly 4 feet above flood stage and still rising Saturday morning at Point Pleasant, W.Va., and was about 7 feet above flood stage but beginning to recede at Marietta, Ohio, the National Weather Service said. Downstream, it was expected to crest Tuesday at slightly more than 5 feet above at Cincinnati, the weather service said.

Water was 2 to 4 feet deep Saturday in

the streets of downtown Marietta, closing businesses.

Louisville had already closed part of its River Road and installed two of its flood gates, and the Caesars Indiana riverboat casino in Harrison County, Ind., was shut down. The expected 28-foot crest at Louisville, 5 feet over flood stage, would be the highest since the March 1997 flood.

People who live along the Ohio learn to cope with its floods.

"The first thing I do before I go is clean the fireplace," said Sherry Welch of Juniper Beach, Ky., who had friends helping her pack furniture into a truck Friday. "If you don't do that, water will come in and leave a ring all around the inside of your house like a great big ring around a bathtub."

"One year I had to move three times," she said as water lapped at the edge of her patio.



AP photos

Above: As a new round of storms hit the Sierra and Lake Tahoe, motorist Jesse Syfert tightens the chains on his car Friday in Meyers, Calif., before heading over Echo Summit on U.S. Highway 50 to the Bay Area. Left: Marietta City Auditor Sharon Adams makes her way past sandbags on Friday, as floodwaters closed in on downtown businesses in Marietta, Ohio.

## Chemical threat from S.C. train wreck lingers

BY JENNIFER HOLLAND

The Associated Press

GRANITEVILLE, S.C. — Toxic vapors from one of the nation's deadliest chemical spills in years will keep residents out of their homes until at least early next week as cleanup crews try to stop chlorine gas from leaking out of a wrecked train car.

At least eight people died and more than 250 were sickened after a freight train carrying the gas crashed early Thursday near a textile mill. The accident unleashed a greenish-yellow fog that seared people's eyes and lungs.

About 5,400 residents within a one-mile radius of the crash were forced to evacuate, with authorities telling people Friday they would not be allowed to return until Tuesday at earliest. A dusk-to-dawn curfew was imposed within two miles of the wreck for fear that cool night air would cause the chlorine to settle close to the ground.

Authorities said all the deaths appeared to have been caused by the plume of gas that settled over its victims in their homes, their cars and the Avondale Mills textile plant. One of the dead was spotted by Gov. Mark Sanford, who flew over the site to survey the wreckage.

Two nine-member crews were working around the clock to apply a steel patch over a fist-sized hole in the train, said Aiken County Sheriff's Lt. Michael Frank. The work could take until late Saturday.

Workers also were to begin removing chlorine from two additional railroad tank cars involved in the crash.

The accident happened about 2:40 a.m. Thursday when a Norfolk Southern freight

## Chlorine gas cleanup

**STAY AWAY:** Toxic vapors from a deadly chemical spill will keep about 5,400 residents out of their homes until at least early next week.

**WHAT NOW?** Environmental cleanup workers are trying to patch a hole in a freight train carrying chlorine gas that crashed early Thursday.

**FAILOUT:** At least eight people died and more than 250 were sickened when the crash unleashed a greenish-yellow fog that smelled powerfully like bleach.

— The Associated Press

train carrying 42 cars struck a parked train at a crossing next to the plant, where 400 workers were on the night shift making denim and other fabrics.

Monica Channey, 29, heard the boom at home when the trains collided but thought nothing of it at first. "It's always something with the trains or with the mill," she said.

But when authorities came to evacuate her and her 12-year-old son and 10-year-old daughter, she bundled the children up "like mummies."

Channey had a scarf covering her mouth but could still smell the chlorine. "The fumes were like 'whoosh' — a bad ammonia, stronger than any cleaning solution," she said. "It took my breath away."

Five workers died at the mill. A man was found dead in a truck near the plant. Another man was found dead in his home. The train engineer died at a hospital.

Federal officials were investigating the cause of the wreck, but most officials were kept out of the area because of the toxic gas.



AP

Sgt. David Turno, left, with the Aiken County Department of Public Safety, suits up Friday near the command center in Aiken, S.C. He was preparing to go into Graniteville to conduct a door-to-door search of homes near the train-crash site.

State and federal environmental officials have continued conducting air quality tests, finding either low levels or nothing at all a couple blocks away from the site. The crash site levels were higher.

"How high? We are not sure," state Department of Health and Environmental Control spokesman Thom Berry said. The levels exceed the monitor's limits, he said.

## 2005 shaping up as hectic year for Supreme Court

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court returns Monday with an ailing leader, pressure to rule quickly on the constitutionality of federal prison sentences and a slew of contentious issues to decide, from medical marijuana to Ten Commandment displays.

The most immediate concern is the health of Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, who was diagnosed with thyroid cancer in October. He has been working part time at the court for more than two weeks but still is too ill to return to the bench.

At 80, Rehnquist already was considered a top retirement prospect on a court that has had no turnover in a decade, a record.

Besides Rehnquist, Justices John Paul Stevens, 84, and Sandra Day O'Connor, 74, are considered possibilities to leave this year.

In upcoming cases, justices could rule as early as this week on whether the longtime system for sentencing federal defendants should be thrown out because it lets judges, rather than juries, decide factors that add years to prison time. Many judges have delayed sentencing while awaiting the high court's decision.

Other major cases involve whether states can execute juvenile killers, whether the federal government can prosecute people who use marijuana medically, and whether states can bar interstate wine sales over the Internet.



# Pitt, Aniston call it quits

## Actors officially separate

BY JOHN ROGERS  
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Brad Pitt and Jennifer Aniston have finally made official what was rumored for months — Hollywood's A-List couple is splitting up.

"We would like to announce that after seven years together, we have decided to formally separate," the couple said in a joint statement released Friday by Pitt's publicist, Cindy Guagenti.

"For those who follow these sorts of things, we would like to explain that our separation is not the result of any speculation reported by the tabloid media. This decision is the result of much thoughtful consideration."

The couple didn't indicate if they planned to divorce, and Guagenti declined to comment beyond the statement, which also said, "We happily remain committed and caring friends with great love and admiration for one another."

The separation comes 4½ years after the pair's storybook wedding and after months of tabloid speculation that their marriage was in trouble.

In their statement, they asked for the public's "sensitivity in the coming months."

Pitt, 41, and Aniston, 35, have been together since being set up on a blind date in 1998. They were married in a lavish wedding on July 29, 2000, on a Malibu estate overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

Until rumors began swirling that they were about to split, there were near-constant tabloid rumors that Aniston was pregnant. The actress had told People in 2002 that she and Pitt eventually wanted to start a family.



Brad Pitt and his wife, Jennifer Aniston, arrive for a screening of the film "Troy" at the Cannes Film Festival in France last year. Pitt and Aniston have split. Pitt's longtime publicist confirmed Friday.

# Sen. Clinton's former finance aide indicted

BY LARRY MARGASAK  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The finance director for Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton's 2000 campaign is charged in a federal indictment with intentionally understating contributions for a Hollywood fund-raising gala for the senator.

The four-count indictment, unsealed Friday in Los Angeles, charged David Rosen with filing false reports with the Federal Election Commission.

The charges focus on an Aug. 12, 2000, dinner and concert supported by more than \$1.1 million in "in-kind contributions" — goods and services provided for free or below cost. The event was estimated to cost more than \$1.2 million.

The FBI previously said in court papers that it had evidence the former first lady's campaign deliberately understated its fund-raising costs so it would have more money to spend on her campaign.

While the event cost more than \$1.2 million, the indictment alleged, Rosen reported contributions of about \$400,000, knowing the figure to be false.

The indictment charged that he provided some documents to an FEC compliance officer but withheld the true costs of the event and provided false documents to substantiate the lower figure.

Rosen, 41, was arrested last week and delivered a fraudulent

invoice stating the cost of a concert associated with the gala was \$200,000 when he knew that figure was false, according to the indictment. The actual cost of the concert was more than \$600,000.

Each of the four counts of making a false statement carries a maximum penalty of up to five years in prison and up to \$250,000 in fines upon conviction.

Rosen's attorney, Paul Mark Sandler, did not return a call asking for comment. Clinton's lawyer on campaign finance matters, David Kendall, said, "The Senate Campaign Committee has fully cooperated with the investigation. Mr. Rosen worked hard for the campaign, and we trust that when all the facts are in, he will be cleared."

The businessman who hosted the event, Peter Paul, has told federal authorities that it cost more than \$1 million and that he had been surprised when he saw that most of the contributions were not reported.

The money from the fund-raiser went to Clinton's successful campaign for a Senate seat from New York, the Democrats' national Senate campaign organization and a state Democratic Party committee.

The joint fund raising made the rules more complicated because the gala raised both "hard money" — funds given to candidates subject to federal limits — and "soft money" that was unregulated and unlimited under the former campaign finance law.

# JFK's sister Rosemary, 86, dies at Wis. hospital

BY LOLITA C. BALDOR  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — While Rosemary Kennedy spent much of her life shielded from the public eye, her struggles with mental retardation inspired her sister to encourage millions of mentally disabled athletes to publicly celebrate their differences.

Kennedy, the oldest sister of President John F. Kennedy and the inspiration for the Special Olympics, died Friday. She was 86.

Kennedy, the third child of Rose and Joseph Kennedy, was born mentally retarded and underwent a lobotomy when she was 23. She lived most of her life in a Jefferson, Wis., institution, the St. Coletta School for Exceptional Children.

She died at Fort Atkinson Memorial Health Hospital in Wisconsin with her brother Sen. Edward M. Kennedy and her sisters by her side, the family said in a statement.

"Rosemary was a lifelong jewel to every member of our family," the statement said. "From her earliest years, her mental retardation was a continuing inspiration to each of us and a powerful source of our family's commitment to do all we can to help all people with disabilities live full and productive lives."

Rosemary Kennedy's condition became an inspiration to her

younger sister, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, who founded the Special Olympics for mentally disabled athletes, and in 1984 she took over her sister's care after their mother had a stroke.

Rosemary's retardation became public in 1960, just after her brother John was elected president. The National Association for Retarded Children mentioned in a publication that the president-elect "has a mentally retarded sister who is in an institution in Wisconsin."

Born Rose Marie Kennedy on Sept. 13, 1918, in Boston, she was known as Rosemary or Rosie to friends and family. In her own diaries before the lobotomy, she chronicled a life of tea dances, dress fittings, trips to Europe and a visit to the Roosevelt White House.

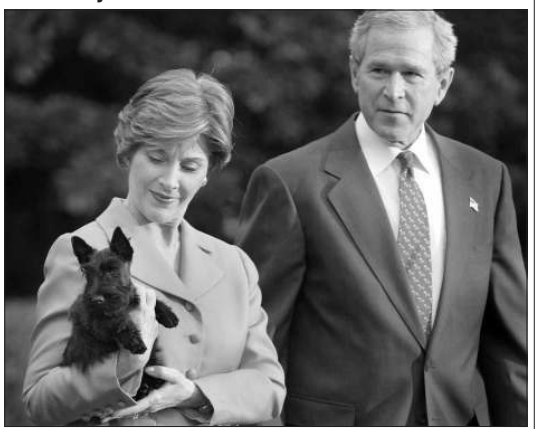
But as she got older, her father worried his daughter's mild condition would lead her into situations that could damage the family's reputation.

"Rosemary was a woman, and there were dread fear of pregnancy, disease and disgrace," author Laurence Leamer wrote in an unauthorized Kennedy biography.

Doctors told Joseph Kennedy that a lobotomy would help his daughter and calm her mood swings.

Rosemary lived in several private institutions before her father placed her in St. Coletta, a hour west of Milwaukee.

# First family shows off newest member



President Bush and first lady Laura Bush show off their new puppy, a Scottish terrier named Miss Beazley, on the South Lawn of the White House on Thursday afternoon. The White House's new resident was a gift to Mrs. Bush from the president for her 58th birthday in November, but the 10-week-old puppy had to wait until this week to move in. Although Scottish terriers are often aggressive with other dogs, there appeared to be no animosity between Miss Beazley and the older first dog, Barney, whose half brother is Miss Beazley's father. Barney gave his younger companion a few good sniffs, but they mostly roamed the grass and ignored each other — and the first lady's calls for them to come. "Behaves like Barney," the president said of the new pooch, recalling Barney's habit of ignoring commands from the president.

# Study: Premies often develop disabilities

More than half of 'miracle babies' are at risk for long-term problems

BY STEPHANIE NANO

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Tiny "miracle babies" make for heartwarming stories, but the reality is that nearly half of all infants born extremely premature have significant learning and physical disabilities by the time they reach school age, the largest such study found.

Medical advances have allowed doctors to save earlier and smaller babies. While some developmental problems are known to be common among such children, the long-term consequences were not entirely clear.

"We needed to have some idea of really what this group was like when they grew up," said one of the researchers, Dr. Neil Marlow, a neonatologist at the University of Nottingham in England.

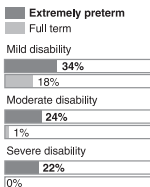
Guidelines call for not resuscitating the most severely premature babies, but where to draw the line is a controversial and emotional decision. The study's findings may help guide doctors and parents about whether it is wise to use heroic measures.

"Parents need to go into this situation with their eyes wide open and with an open dialogue with their doctors as to what they should do," Marlow said.

Normal pregnancy is 37 to 42 weeks. Marlow and his colleagues looked at 241 children about 6 years old who had been born between 22 and 25 weeks. They found that 46 percent had severe or moderate disabilities such as cerebral palsy, vision or hearing loss and learning problems; 34 percent were mildly dis-

## Preterm and disability linked

According to a recent study, nearly half of all infants born extremely premature have significantly more learning and physical disabilities by the time they reach school age than their classroom peers.



SOURCE: New England Journal of Medicine

abled; and 20 percent had no disabling cerebral palsy.

"This gives for the first time a real picture of what happens to these children who are at the limits of viability," said another researcher, Dieter Wolke of the University of Bristol in England.

Their findings are reported in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

The rise of premature births in the United States has crept up in recent years, in part because of a rise in multiple births and older mothers.



March of Dimes/AP

Navy Anderson is seen Nov. 11, 1997, at University of Utah Hospital in Salt Lake City in an incubator, one week after being born prematurely.

"It's important to realize that prematurity is a major public health problem. One in eight babies are born prematurely," said Dr. Scott Berns of the March of Dimes.

The British researchers tracked all extremely premature births in Britain and Ireland over a 10-month period in 1995. Of those who were born live, only a quarter survived and eventually went home from the hospital — 1 percent of those born at 22 weeks; 11 percent at 23 weeks; 26 percent at 24 weeks; and 44 percent at 25 weeks.

The surviving children were tested at 2½ years, and about a quarter had severe disabilities. They were evaluated again at about 6 years.

Standard intelligence tests

showed 21 percent of them had moderate or severe learning disabilities. That figure rose to 41 percent when compared to the test scores of a group of similar classmates who were born at full term.

In an accompanying editorial, Drs. Betty Vohr of Women and Infants Hospital in Providence, R.I., and Marilee Allen of Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, said the study shows the limits of what medicine can do.

They cited publicity about "miracle babies" as one reason parents might seek to have their very premature child resuscitated.

"We wish they all were little miracle babies, but they're not," Vohr said in an interview.

Jamie Anderson of Logan, Utah, had to make a quick decision right before her twins were

born at 23 weeks in 1997. She decided to have them resuscitated, although she knew the chances of survival were low and there was a risk of disabilities.

Her son, born at 507 grams (1 pound, 2 ounces), died within hours. Her daughter, Navy, who was 620 grams (1 pound, 6 ounces), endured four months of operations and blood transfusions before going home from the hospital.

"We were fortunate to have one survive, but we know what it's like to lose one," said Anderson, who will be sharing her experience as a March of Dimes ambassador this year.

As for her now 7-year-old daughter, Anderson said she is doing great with no complications and recently passed two milestones: learning to read and ride a two-wheel bike.

# Theaters welcome babies to special screenings

BY MELISSA MANSFIELD

The Associated Press

RHINEBECK, N.Y. — Monte Romero sat on his mother's lap, looking up at the movie playing on the big screen and chomping on popcorn. After a few moments, he rubbed his eyes, hopped back out into the aisle and went exploring. The 2-year-old stopped and shouted, "Go!" while pointing to the screen, then returned to his mother.

Nobody shushed him. No rolled eyes or piercing stares accused Monte's mother, Marika, of ruining "Guerrilla: The Taking of Patty Hearst" by bringing along a toddler.

"See why you can't bring him to the mall?" Marika said, scooping him up onto her lap again. "He gets very excited."

The Romeros were at a "Bring Your Own Baby" movie at Update Films. Joining in small movie houses and national theater chains, the Rhinebeck theater has begun to show special screenings just for parents and children.

The first-run films are the same ones that theatergoers see the rest of the week. Parents can pick up a bottle of ginger ale or root beer, a homemade cookie or popcorn with real butter. When the movie starts, the



Tara Shafer of Rhinebeck, N.Y., and her 22-month-old son, Reid Curran, watch Monte Romero, 2, foreground, play Dec. 15 before the start of a "Bring Your Own Baby" movie at Update Films in New York.

lights dim, but do not turn off entirely. The soundtrack is loud enough to hear, soft enough for babies to sleep through.

Marika Romero recalled bringing Monte to a recent screening of "Ray," about music legend Ray Charles, at a regular theater. She hoped he would sleep if he got bored.

"Once the first band started, he went 'Drums, mama! Drums!'" she said.

The two spent the rest of the movie outside with the carpet sweepers.

"I do miss the big screen," she sighed, as she waited for the matinee to start.

Update Films has shown three "Bring Your Own Baby" movies so far, with hopes of continuing the program through the next year.

Parents pay regular matinee admission; the babies get in for free.

"The people who come are really happy," said Steve Leiber, who co-founded the nonprofit arts organization with his wife Dede in 1972. "There is no one to say 'Shhhh ... be quiet.'"

Leiber heard of other theaters with matinees for moms, and wanted to try it. "It gives us a chance to get the people who were moviegoers" before they had children.

Midwestern chain Kerasotes Theatres holds "Matinee Movie Magic for Moms (and Dads)" weekly at four of its 75 theaters, featuring a stroller valet outside the theater to help accommodate the new parents.

Loews Cineplex Entertainment launched a program called "Reel Moms" three years ago, and now operates in 20 cities. Loews' spokesman John McCauley said, "The moms are also able to be very current, seeing the latest movies."

Many of the moms who contact the company say they feel isolated after having children and it helps to interact with other new parents in a social setting.

"We get to bring moms together, going through the same life stage," he said.

# REDSXWIN sparks rush on vanity plates

By GLENN ADAMS

The Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Maine — New Englanders, almost as fond of their vanity license plates as they are of chowdah, lobster and their beloved Boston Red Sox, are proclaiming pride in the World Series champions with car-bumper messages that drive the point home.

Some are a bit in-your-face, such as WE WIN and VCTORY. Others are a little more subtle, such as ESXRU04, a Mainer's way of spelling out the reverse of the Curse. Others elated to see the Bambino's hex lifted asked for CURSE-NO and 1918-RIP.

The Red Sox had barely completed their four-game World Series sweep over the St. Louis Cardinals on Oct. 27 before the orders started coming in to Maine's Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Maine officials said.

"Within hours of the final out in Game 4 of the World Series, requests for Red Sox-related vanity plates began to arrive," said then-Secretary of State Dan Gwadosky. The BMV received more than 60 requests by the time a Nov. 9 order was submitted for plate production.

"Dozens of additional requests have been received since. The total probably exceeds 100 at this point, and counting," said Gwadosky, whose term was to end Friday.

One motorist requested FENWAY, the venerable old ballpark that's home of the world champs. Variations from feminine Sox fanatics sought the monikers FNNYCHIK, BSTN-GRL and SOX CHIK. Another request seeks to identify a Mainer as part of a larger realm, RDXSXWIN, or Red Sox Nation for the uninitiated.

Joyce McKenney's plate,



Avid Red Sox baseball fan Joyce McKenney of Richmond, Maine — who is wearing an anti-New York Yankees baseball cap — poses by her vanity plate Thursday.

SXWIN04, turned out to be confusing to some non-sports fans, who ask why it says "sex, wino, four," the Richmond, Maine, resident said.

"Sports people, they love it. They think it's awesome," said McKenney, who watches every Red Sox game on TV or listens on the radio. "It's people who have no clue about sports who sit there and scratch their heads."

Another Maine fan's request for REDSOX reflects the sweet satisfaction of a series championship after a seemingly endless 86-year wait — or maybe it's just an Irish spin on the team's name.

Fans who don't want anyone to forget that sweep over St. Louis ordered SOXIN4 and REDSOX-4.

A dozen Rhode Islanders asked for Red Sox vanity plates after the team's first World Series championship since 1918, said Nancy Tracy of the state's DMV. Some of the requests are RDXSXIN, RDXSOX4, WE WIN and VCTORY.

The rush for Red Sox vanity plates was not nearly so intense in their home state, where only eight were ordered after the series.

Fans craving to identify with their heroes seemed more interested in buying state-issue specialty Red Sox plates that raise money for children's cancer research, said Rob Creedon, spokesman for the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles.

"Our numbers kind of spiked after the playoffs," said Creedon.

Massachusetts drivers mostly asked for a variation of the team's name, such as RZOX04 and SAWX04, while one sought to display the number worn by pitcher Curt Schilling and asked for RDXSX38.

Van motorists were ahead of the game and had snapped up the obvious slogans long before the Red Sox ended their long World Series drought, said Motor Vehicles Commissioner Bonnie Rutledge.

"We already had some vanity plates related to Red Sox, but they've been out there for quite a while," said Rutledge. "We've had none since they won."

More nation stories on Page 23

In Connecticut, there's no way to tell how many Sox fans paid extra for vanity plates commemorating the World Series champs, motor vehicle spokesman Bill Seymour said.

"There are too many possibilities that could be associated with that," Seymour said.

Connecticut motorists can display plates that benefit Long Island Sound, child safety and pet care, but the state has no official license plate honoring the Red Sox. Massachusetts has its Red Sox "Jimmy Fund" plates. In Maine, a bill submitted to the Legislature seeks a special Red Sox plate.

Officials in New Hampshire's motor vehicle agency didn't return phone calls. The Granite State is among those with an on-line service through which motorists can see if the vanity plates they choose are already taken.

Interest in Red Sox vanity plates isn't limited to New England.

Nearly 100 New Yorkers who pledge no allegiance to the Yankees applied for vanity plates with messages about the Red Sox in the month after the World Series ended, the state's DMV said.

One Empire State who couldn't help but gloat after the Sox beat the Yankees for the pennant asked for BYEYES.

Maine gets more than 50,000 requests for information about vanity plates per month. Maine's Vanity Plate Check is one of more than 20 online services that can be accessed through the Secretary of State's Web page.



Hikers make their way on one of the Viennese hiking paths in Vienna, Austria, in November 2004. A novel study of hikers in the Alps made the intriguing discovery that different types of exercise had different effects on fats and sugars in the blood. Going uphill cleared fats from the blood faster, going downhill reduced blood sugar more, and hiking either way lowered bad cholesterol.

## Hiking style dictates benefits

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE

The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — If exercise is too much of an uphill battle, you may want to try the downside.

A novel study of hikers in the Alps made the intriguing discovery that different types of exercise had different effects on fats and sugars in the blood.

Going uphill cleared fats from the blood faster, going downhill reduced blood sugar more, and hiking either way lowered bad cholesterol.

Both types of hiking are beneficial, but one may help diabetics more than the other, said Dr. Heinz Drexel of the Academic Teaching Hospital of Feldkirch, Austria, who reported the research at a recent American Heart Association conference in New Orleans.

Hik was a most unusual study, involving steep mountains and lifts at a ski resort.

"If you think about this in practical terms, it's pretty hard to imagine how any human being could just go one way and get back to where they started unless they happen to live near a cable car, which was used in this study," said Dr. Raymond Gibbons, a cardiologist at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., who had no role in the research.

Still, Dr. Gerald Fletcher, a cardiologist at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Fla., said the findings could be applied in the real world: People who work

in office buildings, for example, could take the stairs one way and the elevator the other, depending on what their exercise goals were.

Hiking uphill is concentric exercise, where muscles are shortened, which happens when you bend your arm or step upward.

Going downhill is eccentric muscle work, such as extending your arm or actively resisting stretching, which happens when you step down.

The Austrian researchers tested both types of exercise on 45 healthy people who normally exercised very little. For the study, the participants took three to five hour-long hikes each week. For two months they hiked uphill and made the ski lift down. The next two months they took the lift up and hiked down.

Their blood sugar and cholesterol levels were checked before the study started and after each two-month exercise segment. They also gave urine tests to see how quickly and well their blood removed fats and sugar after each exercise phase.

The hikers made no changes in their diets, so that the effects of the exercise could be isolated. This could be good news for diabetics, who often have trouble with concentric and many types of aerobic exercise, Drexel said.

They may be better able to tolerate downhill hiking and may get more out of it, too. It also could be a good way for people who do not exercise now to get started, Drexel suggested.



## Too much MTV?

**WA** LAKE STEVENS — Someone in the Census Bureau may be watching a little too much MTV.

Bevis Lake, a 5.7-acre body of water in a forested area about 25 miles northeast of Seattle, is now appearing in Bureau records with a different name: Butthead Lake.

Those two names — Bevis and Butthead — are almost identical to the 1990s MTV cartoon show "Beavis and Butt-head," which featured a pair of slacker teenagers who watch music videos and make bad jokes.

Someone at the Census Bureau must have gotten bored and made a joke out of naming the lake, said Ken Brown, a land surveyor with the state Department of Natural Resources.

It's not unusual for small lakes in one-of-the-way places to have different names because of variations in county, state or other official records, but there are no such indications in this case, Brown said.

## Shrine can stay

**MA** PEPPERELL — A judge has ruled that a man can keep the illuminated, three-story shrine in his backyard that he says he was instructed to build by the Virgin Mary.

Neighbors in this rural town on the Massachusetts-New Hampshire border ordered Noel Dube, 85, to remove the shrine in 1999, saying he didn't have the proper permits. Neighbors had complained about its size and the thousands of visitors it attracted annually.

Instead, Dube expanded it, adding a 30-foot painting of Jesus and a 24-foot illuminated cross to an existing 20-foot mural of Our Lady of Fatima.

Last week, Middlesex Superior Court Judge Kenneth Fishman ruled that the shrine can stay.

## Southern speaking

**NC** RALEIGH — A television documentary debuting this week examines the dialects and language of North Carolina, from the "hot toide" of Cherokee Island residents to Cherokee elders who converse in their native language.

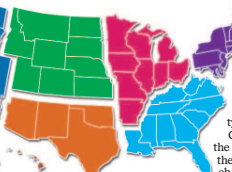
In addition to examining the different dialects, the UNC-TV documentary "Voices of North Carolina" also explores what they mean to people's identity. The film is a companion to "Do You Speak American?" a documentary about this country's speech that aired nationwide this week on PBS.

## Wolf watch in north

**ID** COEUR D'ALENE — Wolf sightings are increasing across northern Idaho and the governor is expected to ask the federal government for statewide control of the wolf population, Idaho Fish and Game Director Steve Huffaker said.

Interior Secretary Gale Norton announced this week a new rule giving Idaho and Montana more authority to manage wolves inside a federally designated recovery area. But more wolf sightings are being reported north of Interstate 90, outside of the recovery area.

Gov. Dirk Kempthorne is expected to send a letter to Washington, D.C., later this week asking for



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

statewide control, Huffaker said.

## Mistrial for doctor

**OH** NORWALK — A judge declared a mistrial in a medical negligence case against a physician after the doctor came to the aid of a juror who passed out during opening statements.

The defendant, Dr. Joseph Carver, told the 74-year-old juror Wednesday that it appeared he had a heart flutter that momentarily prevented oxygen from getting to his brain and caused the blackout.

The juror was taken to a hospital for tests.

No new trial date has been set. Carver, an obstetrician and gynecologist, is being sued for \$3 million by a couple who say their newborn daughter was dropped on the floor of a delivery room in 2000 while under Carver's care.

## Fake cop shoots man

**NY** FRANKLIN SQUARE — The manager of a Long Island bank was shot dead as he drove home from work by a man posing as a police officer, authorities said.

James Gottlieb, 49, was driving on Sention Boulevard in Franklin Square at about 7 p.m. Wednesday when a black SUV with flashing lights pulled him over, Nassau

County police said.

When he got out of his car, Gottlieb was confronted by a man who claimed to be a police officer and ordered him to get on the ground, said Detective Sgt. Dennis Barry, of the Nassau County Police Homicide Squad.

Gottlieb demanded to see the man's identification, and the two began to argue. Gottlieb started walking toward the front door of a nearby house, and the man posing as a police officer fired three shots, striking Gottlieb in the arm and leg, police said. He died at Mercy Hospital in Rockville Centre at 8:14 p.m.

The gunman fled the scene and there were no arrests.

## Defendant bites bailiff

**TX** FORT WORTH — A defendant flew into a rage in a Fort Worth courtroom and bit a bailiff after a judge announced he had been found guilty of indecency with a child Wednesday, witnesses said.

Before biting the bailiff, Lonnie B. Howard threw a water pitcher across the courtroom.

"We think he was trying to hit the victim's family," Terry Grisham of the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office told KDFW television station in Dallas-Fort Worth.

Howard then lunged at the family, biting the face of one of the bailiffs who tried to restrain him. Officials say he will be charged with aggravated assault on an officer.

## Oil spill in tunnel

**VA** HAMPTON — A tractor-trailer lost its fuel tank while heading westbound through the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel on Monday night, spilling more than 100 gallons of diesel fuel and closing the tunnel to traffic for nearly two hours.

The incident happened at 7:42 p.m., spokeswoman Tiffany Elliott of the Virginia Department of Transportation said. It did not involve any other vehicles and no one was injured, she said, but specifics about how the fuel tank came loose were unclear.

"It seems as though it just dropped off the truck," Elliott said. The amount of fuel in the tank also was not immediately clear, but Elliott said there were indications the tank was full, holding as many as 140 gallons of fuel.

## Charges in model murder

**PA** YEADON — A man was charged Wednesday with raping and killing an aspiring teenage model, then cutting up her body, putting it in a steel drum and burning it with help from an acquaintance.

Delaware County District Attorney G. Michael Green said he will consider seeking the death penalty for Lamar Haymes, 29.

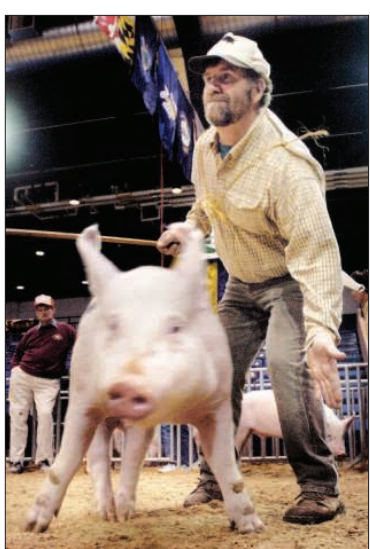
Haymes was charged with kidnapping, rape, first-degree murder, abuse of a corpse and other counts in the death of 15-year-old Deanna Wright McIntosh, who left home early last month after an argument with her mother.

Authorities allege Haymes raped and killed Wright McIntosh at a house in Lansdowne just blocks from her family's Yeadon home.



## Sky diving

Roofer Ken Buchalski wipes sweat from his brow while working atop a roof as the Jantzen Girl mannequin seems to dive out of a deep blue sky in Daytona Beach, Fla.



## Prize pig

Arlie Cornborer of New Freedom, Pa., guides his "barrow," a male pig, past the judge during the test market hog contest at the 89th annual Pennsylvania Farm Show in Harrisburg, Pa.



## Hop, skip and a jump

Anna Xine skips happily as temperamental rose to the mid 60's in Palmer Square in Princeton, N.J.





## Reflections of the past

A portion of Philadelphia's Boathouse Row is shown at night. The rowhouse lights, a fixture since the 1976 Bicentennial celebrations, and not revamped since the mid-eighties, were later turned off as part of a plan to re-do the lighting with light-emitting diodes instead of standard light bulbs.



## Big hat to fill

Nine-month-old Aubrianna Taylor tries on the hat of her uncle, Washington State Trooper Charles Bates, of Key Center, Wash., prior to Bates taking part in graduation ceremonies in Olympia, Wash.



## A splash of color

Japanese apricot trees are blooming in the Sara P. Duke Gardens in Durham, N.C., adding a bright touch to the January monochromatic scene.



## On a fishin' mission

Tamarion Botley, 4, casts a fishing line near a foot bridge across Ellen Trout Memorial Lake in Lufkin, Texas.

## Men get big money jobs

**NC** RALEIGH — A study by the state personnel office found that North Carolina employs almost as many women as men in state government, but women fill most low-wage jobs. Women make up 48.9 percent of the state work force but hold 71.5 percent of the jobs in the bottom 10 pay grades. Men hold 75 percent of the jobs in the top 15 pay grades.

## Scholarship needs funds

**SD** PIERRE — Legislators will be asked to find \$500,000 to fully fund a new scholarship program that's more popular than expected. It pays \$5,000 in tuition over four years to qualifying high school graduates for any college or vocational school in the state. The Legislature last year appropriated enough money to fund two years of the program for 650 students, but \$26 qualified.

## Suspect killed

**NJ** CAMDEN — A man killed during an attempted robbery was responsible for a string of rapes in a downtown neighborhood, authorities said Wednesday. Camden County Prosecutor Vincent P. Sarubbi said the state police DNA lab confirmed Antonio Diaz Reyes, 32, was the rapist in the recent attacks of a high school student, a university student and a store worker.

The rapes in November and December were brazen daylight attacks at knife-point. Investigators decided to check Reyes' DNA because the would-be robber's method was similar to that used in the sexual assaults.

Authorities said Reyes entered the Camden City Wireless and Fishing Supply store Friday afternoon and held the store owner's wife at knife-point. Owner Ngoc Le, 28, grabbed his own gun and told Reyes he would let him live if he released his wife, authorities said. Reyes refused and Le opened fire, fatally hitting Reyes in the head.

## Budget request add up

**MT** HELENA — The Legislature's chief budget analyst warned that while the state appears to have plenty of money for the 2005 Legislature to spend, the demands for the cash are quickly eating it away. School funding needs and a state employee pay raise easily could drain what remains of an "unprecedented" \$293 million budget surplus, Clayton Schenck said.

## Funny paperwork

**TX** DALLAS — An internal investigation has found that Dallas County Sheriff's Department officials conspired to falsify training records for a civilian reserve deputy so he could patrol county highways unsupervised and make DWI arrests.

Former Sheriff Jim Bowles, days before leaving office last week, reversed conclusions of the investigation and ordered them reclassified as "unfounded," shutting down the case before he left his job.

According to an internal memorandum, the department's internal affairs office had enough evidence to prove that Deputy Arlo Mike

Baker, Deputy Thomas "Buck" Fortner and reserve Deputy Cary Platt "conspired to manufacture fraudulent official Sheriff's Department records."

Platt, a real estate developer, denied the allegations Wednesday.

## Gargantuan gator

**FL** MIAMI — Residents could be forgiven for doing a double-take when an alligator weighing more than 400 pounds was yanked out of a downtown creek — so big it had to be hoisted out by a fire truck.

The 12-foot alligator was discovered in Wagner Creek, about 16 miles from the Everglades, in the shadow of two major hospital complexes and around the corner from a veterans' medical center, a court house, a county jail and government office buildings.

It was "about the last place you'd expect to see an alligator of any size," said trapper Todd Hardwick. Alligators are much more common in suburban canals and lakes.

The alligator likely swam downtown years ago, when it was smaller, and lived in the canal system draining the Miami Civic Center, emerging only to snatch raccoons and opossums from the bank, Hardwick said.

## Charges dropped

**TX** SAN ANTONIO — Child-indecent-exposure charges have been dropped against Federal Administrative Law Judge Forrest Elmo Stewart. A teenage accuser several months ago admitted that she lied about having sex with Stewart, 78. District Attorney Susan Reed cited poor cooperation between federal officials and investigators in determining what really happened.

## Salty wreck

**TN** ERWIN — With winter's full wrath still to be felt, Unicoi County is already having a cold-weather crisis: It lost all three of its salt trucks during a single traffic accident.

"We have snow plows and graders to do the winter road work, but we'll have to probably seek help from the state in getting road salt spread on county roads," said Terry Haynes, the county's highway department superintendent. While traveling Dec. 22 to get more salt, the trucks collided with a tractor-trailer. Icy conditions were blamed for the accident.

The lost trucks were valued at about \$275,000. While they "are fully covered with insurance, it takes time to go through the insurance process," Haynes said.

## War on homelessness

**MN** DULUTH — Mayor Herb Bergson wants to end homelessness in the city within 10 years. In his state of the city address, Bergson said the city will team up with a local food bank to start a fund for Duluth residents who go hungry. "It's going to be very challenging to have the long-term resources that will sustain this," said Greg Owen, who has researched homelessness for the St. Paul-based Wilder Research Center. He said homelessness is a complex issue.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



## OPINION

## What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Canadian cows' range of motion  
The Tri-City Herald,  
Kennewick, Wash.

It's almost time to let the cows come home, the Bush administration has decided. Canadian cows, that is.

The decision by the U.S. government to reopen its borders in March to certain categories of Canadian cattle is a good move, backed with an abundance of caution.

The Bush administration is expected to proceed with lifting the ban even after Canada said that it had found a suspected new case of mad cow disease. No part of the 10-year-old dairy cow in question has entered human or animal food.

The ban, which sprang from a May 2003 case of mad cow disease in Alberta, has outlived its time. It may have ended sooner, if it were not for the United States' first case of mad cow disease, discovered in a Holstein from Mabton almost exactly one year ago. The Mabton cow was traced back to a Canadian herd.

The U.S. government has repeatedly petitioned other governments to lift their bans on importing our food. A reciprocal arrangement with Canada seems only fair. ...

The Agriculture Department says effective measures are in place to prevent and detect bovine spongiform encephalopathy. ... With safeguards in place, it's time to renew the transatlantic trade in beef, a symbol of cooperation of U.S. and Canadian cattle producers.

Russians weigh freedom, order  
Chicago Tribune

Five years ago, the first democratically elected president of Russia, Boris Yeltsin, sent his countrymen into the world by signing. Turning to his hand-picked prime minister, Vladimir Putin, Yeltsin gave him the keys to the Kremlin and urged him to "rule over Russia."

Russia, as that new year of 2000 dawned, desperately needed care. ...

For their part, Russians have willingly traded in their unruly 1990s-style freedom for a chance at greater domestic security. Putin's approval ratings remain high.

Americans can understand that desire for freedom from terrorism. Though this country has not suffered a repeat of Sept. 11, 2001, Russia has been rocked by apartment bombings, blown-up airplanes, suicide bombers and the horrific hostage-siege in Beslan, resulting in the deaths of hundreds of children. ...

It is no great surprise that the Russian people are willing to give Putin a stronger hand. Russians submitted a strong, autocratic leaders through hundreds of years of rule by the czars and 70 years of communism. Putin was stepping in the secretive ways of the Soviet KGB and his anti-democratic tendencies were apparent early on. He promised Russians stability and economic growth — both were in short order five years ago. ... For free trumpets and a strong Russia. The state is becoming more powerful with the promise that it will make the people more secure. Centuries of Russian history argue that this is a false promise.

Where is Putin taking Russia? Certainly not to the re-creation of the Soviet empire. ... But the chances that Russia will develop into a free, prosperous and modern democracy seem to be slipping away.

Insurgents won't rock Iraq vote  
The Poughkeepsie (N.Y.) Journal

President Bush is holding firm that Iraqi elections must take place at the end of this month. It's the best bet for the take, for now. For all the likely problems with distributing and counting ballots in such a chaotic cli-



mate, delaying elections could exacerbate fears the United States isn't committed to removing its troops as soon as possible. Many Iraqi factions, and members of the world community, still have great distrust about U.S. intentions in Iraq. More importantly, the Bush administration realizes the sooner elections are held, the faster it will be able to withdraw troops and let the Iraqis run their own country. ...

Free and safe elections are, of course, the key to success in Iraq. The insurgents are mustering all they can to derail the effort, but the interim Iraqi government must try to move forward. ...

For their part, U.S. authorities are ramping up efforts to make sure military vehicles operating in Iraq have the proper armor to protect troops against attacks. And the military also will boost U.S. troop strength in the short term, adding about 12,000 to 138,000 ready soldiers in Iraq.

Those efforts are essential. The United States also has to make a long-term investment by providing better training for Iraqi security forces.

It's still anyone's guess whether the January elections can be carried out. ... But it's clear delaying the vote would be a huge victory for the insurgents. ... That is reason enough to stick with the timetable for now.

U.N. 'stingy' in appreciation  
The Gazette, Colorado Springs, Colo.

Maybe "stingy" means something different in Norwegian than it does in English. That might explain how comments made by Jan Egeland, the Norwegian who serves as emergency relief coordinator for the United Nations, suggesting that the United States and other countries were being less-than-generous in responding to the tsunami disaster in Asia, could have been "misinterpreted."

Egeland conducted the Dec. 27 press conference at the United Nations in English, however. "It is beyond me why are we so stingy, really," he said. "If the foreign assistance of many countries now is 0.1 or 0.2 percent of their gross national income. ... I don't think that is very generous." That provoked a strong response from Secretary of State Colin Powell — and to some "clarifications" from Egeland the next day, claiming he'd been misinterpreted.

The United States contributes roughly 0.13 percent of its Gross Domestic Product each year to development aid — that excludes food aid (of which we are by far the world's biggest provider), funds for rebuild-

ing Iraq and Afghanistan and private donations. That's less than the 0.7 percent of GDP the United Nations suggests we contribute, but, given that the U.S. economy is the world's largest, it's still a generous expenditure — and can't be called "stingy" in any language.

Voyeur has See: Seeing is believing  
The Times-Picayune, New Orleans

A federal law that now makes it illegal to surreptitiously film or photograph another person should help thwart the abuse of advances in technology that have made taking pictures effortless.

Small video cameras can be installed virtually anywhere, and many mobile phones now come equipped with cameras. They've become the tools of the perverted who have sneaked them into gym locker rooms and public restrooms.

The law that was signed by President Bush applies only to voyeuristic acts committed under federal property. Proponents of the legislation cited examples of inconspicuous cameras being used to capture images of people in dressing rooms and showers on Navy warships.

That's despicable. But until this new legislation was passed, there was no law that made such actions illegal. That gap between what we know to be wrong and what we've deemed legal was similar to a loophole Louisiana had until recently.

Susan Wilson, a Monroe woman, discovered in 1998 that a neighbor had been secretly recording her and her family's private moments.

When she went to authorities, however, she discovered that even though in-person voyeurism was illegal, videotaped voyeurism had not been addressed.

Wilson's complaints led to the passage of a video voyeurism bill in Louisiana that made the crime a felony. Since then, more than 30 other states also have taken a stance against video voyeurism.

An assault on fair punishment  
The Plain Dealer, Cleveland

Todd Bertuzzi has gotten a break he does not deserve from a provincial court in British Columbia. Bertuzzi is the Vancouver Canucks hockey star who, in the closing seconds of a lopsided loss in March, viciously attacked Steve Moore of the Colorado Avalanche from behind.

Three days before Christmas, Bertuzzi accepted a very nice present from prosecu-

tors: By pleading guilty to assault causing bodily harm and agreeing to pay a \$500 fine and perform 80 hours of community service, he can walk away with no criminal record after a year. A hearing to ratify the deal was arranged so hastily that Moore could not travel from his home in Massachusetts to face his assailant in court.

Had he appeared, Moore might have talked about what the attack meant to him. Almost 10 months later, he still suffers from headaches, memory loss and mood swings. He cannot skate or work out. ...

At its best, professional hockey is a game of speed and grace. But one reason that so few Americans follow it — and even fewer NHL's refusal to say this year's shutdown — is the NHL's upset to take an unbending stand against the eye-for-an-eye justice represented by Bertuzzi's assault.

Oust Annan for his inaction  
The Tribune-Democrat,  
Johnstown, Pa.

It's time for America to sever ties. We aren't prepared to call U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan a crook. He may simply be an incompetent. But either way, Annan has no right to be given an additional two years in his prestigious position. ...

There was the U.S.'s oil-for-food scandal in Iraq. As Nile Gardiner of The Heritage Foundation noted in a recent column, it was "the biggest scandal in the history of the United Nations and the biggest financial fraud of modern times." He wrote that the U.N. program was supposed to help the people of Iraq, but instead enriched their corrupt leaders.

Charles Duelfer, a U.S. weapons inspector, wrote that Annan's hand-picked director of the program supposedly received a voucher from Saddam Hussein for 13 million barrels of oil. Some humanitarian program that. ... Then there was the scandal in the Congo involving U.N. personnel and peacekeepers. Gardiner wrote that the U.N. is accused of human rights violations against refugees "on a scale that dwarfs the Abu Ghraib scandal." Annan even accepted organizational responsibility for that debacle. ...

As a leading financial sponsor of U.N. operations, the United States should demand the immediate removal of Annan. If President Bush does not have the fortitude to do it, Congress should be cutting off all U.S. payments to the U.N. ...

In recent years, the U.N. has become a forum for strong expressions of anti-American sentiment. It is time that the United States stopped paying for its own revilement.



## YOUR MONEY

# Tax time coming — watch for those forms

## Start preparing papers now, experts say

BY EILEEN ALT POWELL

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Among the credit card bills, post-holiday sales flyers and junk mail this month will be a number of letters that consumers will want to save. These contain the W-2s, 1099s and 1098s, and other forms Americans need for their annual April taxpaying ritual.

Eric Tyson, a financial counselor and co-author of "Taxes for Dummies," suggests consumers set up a file folder or large envelope to collect the incoming tax documents so they're ready when the time comes to fill out income tax forms that are due April 15.

"When it's all in one place, it's easier to do your taxes," Tyson said.

Taxpayers trying to pull their papers together at the last minute can make mistakes or miss valuable deductions, he said.

In fact, a study by the Government Accountability Office found that more than 2 million Americans overpaid their federal taxes by an average of \$438 because they claimed the standard deduction rather than writing off items such as mortgage interest payments, state and local taxes, and charitable contributions.

Tyson also suggests consumers "take at least a glance" at the incoming tax documents to make sure they're correct.

"You don't want to wait until April 14, because you won't be able to get errors corrected in time to get your return filed on time," he said.

The form that's the most important at tax time for workers is the W-2, which employers provide. W-2s contain information on workers' total earnings, as well as the amount of federal, state and local taxes that have been withheld.

Most employers distribute W-2s at their workplaces, but some mail them to workers as well as to former employees.

Other forms likely to show up in mailboxes in coming weeks are 1099-INT forms, on which financial institutions report the amount of interest paid to consumers, and 1099-DIV forms, where dividend earnings are recorded.

Financial institutions send copies of many of these tax forms directly to the Internal Revenue Service, said Lennie Gary, a committee chairman with the National As-

sociation of Enrolled Agents, based in Washington, D.C. Enrolled agents are licensed by the government to assist consumers with their taxes.

"The government uses these third parties to verify many sources of income," Gary said. That should help motivate accurate reporting by consumers, he added.

Gary, who works as a tax manager with American Express Tax and Business Services in Mountain View, Calif., said workers who haven't received their W-2 forms by the first week in February should call their employers and ask when they will be available.

"They go astray more often than you'd think," he said.

"People move, change addresses, but the W-2 goes out to the previous address."

If a company has gone out of business, workers generally can use their final pay stubs to prepare their taxes, he said.

Peggy Munro, an enrolled agent in Montpelier, Vt., who also wrote sections for the "Taxes for Dummies" book, pointed out that

there are a variety of 1099 forms that taxpayers may need.

In addition to those with information about taxable interest and dividend payments, there are 1099s used to report sales of real estate and stocks, pension and Individual Retirement Account distributions, and Social Security. Other 1099 forms are used to report unemployment compensation or state and local tax refunds.

While most of the forms that arrive in the mail have to do with income, there are some that will be of help to consumers who itemize their taxes and claim deductions.

The most common form in this category is the 1098, which financial institutions issue to report the interest that consumers paid on their home mortgages, she said. Some 1098s also show real estate taxes paid from the homeowner's escrow account. There's also a 1098-E, an interest statement for those paying back student loans.

"People should also expect to receive statements for charitable donations," Munro said. "For donations of \$250 or more, the charity is required to give you a receipt. Many (charities) don't mail them out until January of the following year."

She added: "If you've made those contributions and haven't received receipts, get on the phone and ask for them. A canceled check is no longer proof for the deduction."

*Taxpayers trying to pull their papers together at the last minute can make mistakes or miss valuable deductions.*



THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS/RET

## Some lower-income workers not receiving credit

The Dallas Morning News

The concept is almost beyond comprehension: The Internal Revenue Service actually wants to give people money.

The IRS wants more eligible taxpayers to claim the Earned Income Tax Credit, which is designed to ease the tax burden on the working poor.

"It's not often that you hear the IRS is recruiting people to claim a credit," said David Williams, director of the EITC program at the IRS.

The most recent IRS figures show that 27 percent to 32 percent of all EITC claims had errors.

"We want everybody who qual-

ifies for the credit to claim the credit, but we don't want to pay out the dollars on this to those who don't qualify," said IRS Commissioner Mark W. Evans. "It helps lift people out of poverty, but it can't be subject to the high error rate that it is and not be subject to criticism."

It comes down to educating taxpayers. If you're single with income below \$12,000, or married with children and income below \$36,000, it's worth checking into. That doesn't mean you can't qualify. There are pitfalls to watch out for.

All you have to do to claim the credit is fill out a federal tax return along with the worksheet that tells you how much your

credit will be. That sounds simple, but unfortunately it's pretty complicated.

Nationally, 21 million low-income families qualified for the credit last year and received \$36 billion. But IRS studies indicate that millions more are eligible but fail to claim the credit.

David Williams, director of the program at the Internal Revenue Service, said slightly more than 75 percent of eligible taxpayers claim the credit.

More than 90 percent of eligible mothers with children claim the credit, he said. But you don't have to have a child to claim the credit.

The maximum credit is \$4,300 for a family with two or more chil-

dren. When the tax credit exceeds the amount of taxes owed, it results in a refund.

"The EITC lifts millions of families above the poverty line every year," Williams said. "It becomes a supplement to their earned income."

Even if you don't owe taxes, be sure to file an income tax return. That's the only way you can claim the credit.

But make sure you qualify, because the IRS monitors the program closely for errors and fraud. The amount of the credit depends on your earned income, the number of children you have and your filing status.

To start, you must have earned

income from wages or self-employment.

"Review your circumstances over the past year," Williams said. "Don't guess whether you qualify."

The most common error is incorrectly claiming a "qualifying child," he said. You must have lived with your child for more than half the year.

"The rules for claiming a qualifying child are somewhat complicated," Williams said. "It's not a surprise that a number of people get them wrong."

For information on claiming the credit, go to the IRS Web site at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) and download Publication 596, Earned Income Credit. You also may order a free copy by calling toll-free 1-800-429-3676.





## Sunday Horoscope

Capricorn hosts the astrological party, or perhaps the word "gathering" is more fitting, as this is no out-of-control event. It is a dignified, formal affair. Venus and Mercury enter fashionably late, inspiring us to take a more serious approach to relationships. Notice love's role in your life. How do you love, and how do you know you are loved?

### TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT (January 9)

You build on your fantastic attributes this year and kick some of your less fashionable habits in the process. A lucky deal comes through for you at the end of this month. Romantically, you'll be more aware of what you're giving and therefore ready to accept better, too. Commitments are nailed in April. Retreat in August. Love signs are Aries and Gemini.

### ARIES (March 21-April 19)

The stars activate your envy button. Someone rich makes life seem easy from your point of view — as if all you have to do is make enough money and everything else will follow. Look deeper for truth and meaning.

### TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

They say domestication is the enemy of romance, but you can prove them wrong. You've got a way of arranging your environment to bring about amorous feelings. What style. What class.

### GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

Some stunner, you're someone's heart — for the moment, that is. You could lose all your senses and pull an "Ooops! ... I did it again!" ala the Britney Spears song. Make sure your "captivator" knows you're not there forever.

### CANCER (June 22-July 22)

Your mental picture lights up — it's your chance to be downright scholarly. Fascinating information drifts onto your paper. Soak it up like a child with an open mind who doesn't know his or her limitations.

### LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

You're in no mood to deny your feelings. While you're looking longingly in someone's direction, someone else is looking longingly toward you. These games of triangular love

could go on for days.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Noble pursuits are necessary to sustain life. And so are frivolous pursuits. Engage equity in acts of big importance and graceful insouciance — although you may find it difficult to distinguish between the two.

### Holiday Mathis

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** It's the perfect time to take a risk in love — it has to be a real risk, though, the kind that makes your palms sweat. If you know your gesture is going to be well received, it doesn't count. The very essence of romance is uncertainty.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** You're aligning with your sensuality. You find beauty in natural occurrences and music in the soft wind and gentle rain. Restore your balance by taking time alone to appreciate the elements in your own way.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Your social acumen goes deeper than just being a witty participant in the right place with the right people. When friends come to you in a broken-down state, you offer love in the form of a listening, non-judgmental ear.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Relationships are an intricate puzzle, and you'll fit new pieces together today. It feels like you've been asking the same question since the dawn of time. Well, you're finally heard, and you'll get your answer.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Romantic risk is favored. You are just imagining the pain you anticipate will happen if you put your heart on the line. But if you think it's going to hurt, it probably will. The trick is to hold still just when you feel like running.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** There's a chance to show great mercy. Such an opportunity doesn't come along every day, so seize the moment. You can make a difference to the people who needs your help the most.

Creators Syndicate

## 'Nightmares' aren't from horses

Why do we call bad or scary dreams "nightmares"?

Because of the similarity in form between the second element of the compound "nightmare" and the noun "mare," meaning "a female horse," many people have assumed a connection between the two words.

Actually, however, the "mare" of "nightmare" is a survival of an older "mare" found in Old English.

"Mare" was a word in English as early as the 8th century, but it was obsolete by the 18th century. Old English "mare" means "an

evil spirit thought to oppress people during sleep." The compound "nightmare" first appears in Middle English in the 13th century, in a sense much the same as "mare" in Old English.

Not until the 16th century was the meaning of "nightmare" extended to refer to a frightening or oppressive dream, probably from the belief or suggestion that such dreams were caused by evil spirits.

This column was prepared by the editors of Merriam-Webster's Concise Dictionary, Tenth Edition. Readers may send questions to Merriam-Webster's Wordwatch, P.O. Box 261, 47 Federal St., Springfield, Mass. 01102.

## Make certain neighbor gets point that she's far too nosy

**Dear Abby:** How does one deal with a nosy neighbor? "Miss Nosy" looks through my mail, and I caught her red-handed with a former neighbor's mail, which she had opened, read and apparently hoarded. I didn't confront her because I had just moved next door and didn't want to start a feud.

Miss Nosy claims she goes into my mailbox to make sure our postman hasn't accidentally put something for her in there. Doesn't she know that if he did, I'd give it to her? If someone comes to my door, Miss Nosy calls and demands to know who it is and as much about his or her life history as I'm willing to share. She also asks me questions that are far too personal. She is elderly, but I don't think that's a valid excuse for her behavior.

I'm considering replacing my mailbox with one that locks so that only I can get my mail out.

— **Invaded in Tennessee**

**Dear Invaded:** What your neighbor is doing is called mail tampering, and it's a felony. A locked mailbox is the surest, safest solution to your problem. You would be doing your neighbors a tremendous favor if you

called the local postal inspector's office and reported what the woman is doing. They may not haul Miss Nosy off to the pokey, but she'll be sent a letter saying that what she's doing is a felony, and if a check should go missing, she'll be blamed for it.

P.S. Suggest to the woman that since she doesn't seem to have enough to occupy her, she should start a Neighborhood Watch program.

### Dear Abby



**Dear Abby:** How do you get a child to stop biting? My sister's little boy, "Alan," is 1½. My son, "Lee," is 2. Every time they are together, Alan bites Lee out of anger. Sometimes the bite remains for days — and once it stayed a whole week.

Lee does not bite his cousin back. Since we are a close family, the children are together almost every day.

My sister is ashamed of her son's bullying. Do you have any solutions?

**Frustrated in Louisiana**  
**Dear Frustrated:** For the next month or so, you and your sister should make a point of watching the children closely. When Alan becomes aggressive and starts to bite, his mother should make eye contact with him and say, "Stop

it! We don't do that! If you're going to bite, you can't play with Lee." Then the child should be separated from his cousin for a 15- to 30-minute time out. Once Alan understands there are consequences for his actions, the biting should stop.

**Dear Abby:** My husband, "Bob," and I have a beautiful daughter, "Annie," who was born after a difficult labor and an emergency C-section in April 2001.

We're now expecting our second child, who is due next April just a few days after Annie's birthday. (This birth will also be Cesarean.) Brad thinks it would be great to have the baby on Annie's birthday, but I'm not so sure. Do you think it's best for each child to have their own birthday, or would it form special bond between siblings to share a birthday?

— **Undecided Mama in Ohio**  
**Dear Undecided Mama:** I'm pleased to oblige. Children are individuals, and each child should have one day to be the sole center of attention. Although it might be more convenient to celebrate both birthdays together, I recommend against it.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69840, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the internet at <http://www.usps.com/dearabby> or by e-mail at [dearabby@psny.rr.com](mailto:dearabby@psny.rr.com). Press Syndicate

## Daughter must deal with dad, his dislike for her boyfriend

**Dear Annie:** I am a good kid. I'm 19 years old and a freshman in college, planning to be a veterinarian someday. I make good grades, I don't do drugs, don't drink and don't party. I am not having sex, and I go to church every Sunday.

My father, however, complains about my choices and my boyfriend, "Kyle," whom I have been dating off and on for five years, is not perfect, but he treats me like a queen, isn't abusive and doesn't pressure me about sex. Right now, Kyle has no job and doesn't have the money to go to college, but he's working hard to develop the skills needed for a good career, maybe in the military.

Kyle and I had sex before re-devoting ourselves to our religion. My father holds this against us and, consequently, dislikes Kyle immensely. Dad insists that I date other people and gets angry when Kyle and I go out.

Dad also thinks Kyle is not good enough for me because he cannot support me. Since we aren't planning to get married anytime soon, I'm not worried

about finances, not to mention my salary as a veterinarian ought to help a lot.

Here's the problem: Kyle's parents have invited me to join them for a vacation at a cabin they are renting. I have agreed to go, and my father is furious.

I am old enough to make my own choices but still young enough to be subjected to punishment, and my vengeful father will probably take away my car.

Am I supposed to be an obedient daughter and follow his rules or stop being a child and make decisions for myself? I need your help.

— **Trying Hard**

**Dear Trying:** You sound like a sensible, responsible young woman.

However, by your count, you have been dating Kyle since you were 14. We can understand why your father thinks you should broaden your dating experience. Still, you are indeed old enough to make your own decisions — and that means you must be willing to accept the consequences, including the loss of car privileges.

**Dear Annie:** My daughter is in third grade. The teacher permits the children to use the bathroom only at lunch or recess, but not during class time. Sometimes the kids eat or drink during the day and cannot wait that long. When my daughter comes home from school, she runs to the toilet. One little girl wet herself in class.

The students are awarded "table points" if they do extra things in the classroom, and they can use these points to go to the bathroom, if needed to. But if they are desperate and must go anyway, their group is penalized.

I think this is cruel, but I don't want my daughter to be singled out if I complain to the principal. Am I making too much of this?

— **Pee Patrol in Pasadena, Calif.**

**Dear Pasadena:** Children should never be penalized for needing to use the bathroom. If you don't want your daughter singled out, organize a group of concerned parents to approach the principal and inform him of the outrageous policy he changed immediately.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Los Angeles Times. Please e-mail your questions to [annie@mailbox.comcast.net](mailto:annie@mailbox.comcast.net), or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

### Annie's Mailbox



# Earhart's stepson plans to search anew

## Company plans to launch expedition for vanished aviator this spring

BY LIZ DOUP

South Florida Sun-Sentinel

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — The world loves a mystery, and Amelia Earhart's is a classic.

Nearly 68 years ago, America's fearless female flier took off from a Miami airstrip and vanished in the Pacific on a flight around the world.

Now, a Maine-based ocean exploration company plans to launch an expedition this spring looking for Earhart's plane.

You can understand if Earhart's stepson, George Putnam Jr., feels as if he has flown this course before. Searchers have sporadically looked for Earhart's Lockheed Electra since it disappeared July 2, 1937, near Howland Island, a spit of land in the Pacific Ocean, about halfway between Australia and Hawaii.

Over the years, more than 100 books, movies and documentaries have mined the unfinished story of her remarkable life and her mysterious death. She offered pride and hope to a country crippled by the Great Depression. In the '20s and '30s, when many women didn't even drive a car, Earhart set records in the sky.

Putnam — 16 when his stepmother disappeared — would like to see Earhart's story completed. And at 83, he'd like to see that happen soon.

At his Boynton Beach, Fla., home, the genial Putnam, with a thatch of gray hair and an easy smile, recalls a swirl of unproven stories that surround Earhart's disappearance.

She was part of an espionage mission, spying on the Japanese. She flew off with a Japanese navy navigator. She landed on a nearby island and died there. Or this: She returned to the United States and lived out her life in New Jersey under another name.



KRT

George Putnam, 83, of Boynton Beach, Fla., is Amelia Earhart's stepson. A new expedition is searching for Earhart's lost plane. At Putnam's desk is a reprint of the July 5, 1937, Chicago Herald and Examiner with headlines about the search for Earhart.

Putnam has his own take on what happened to the woman who took him flying. And his isn't so dramatic or intriguing.

Says Putnam, matter of factly, "The plane ran out of gas."

Longtime friend Eileen Long, who'll be part of the search expedition, shares Putnam's belief. "It wasn't a mystery," says Long, 77, a veteran pilot and co-author of "Amelia Earhart: The Mystery Solved." "It was an aircraft accident. A tragic accident."

Earhart and Noonan had 22,000 miles behind them when they took off from Papua New Guinea and were headed to Howland Island to refuel.

Only 7,000 miles remained in her goal to be the first woman to fly around the world. At the time,

she was three weeks shy of her 40th birthday.

Using records that detailed air speed and weather conditions, Long charted her course across the Pacific. She ran into one fatal problem: headwinds stronger than she expected.

"She thought she had four extra hours of gas," Long says. "The headwinds changed that."

Among her last radio messages: "... gas running low. Be unable to [re]ach you by radio."

In 2002, Long joined an underwater search for Earhart's plane led by Nauticos, the same company behind the current venture. Mechanical failure ended that search after about six weeks.

Now they plan to continue their search using sophisticated sonar equipment to sweep 1,000 square

miles of the ocean's floor northwest of Howland Island. Estimated cost: \$1.5 million.

Despite the years, Long expects the plane to be in good shape, if they find it.

Long believes the plane is in water nearly four miles below the ocean's surface, so deep the temperature is near freezing.

"It's like putting something in the deep freeze," he says. "No sunlight. No rust, no corrosion." At the time Earhart and Noonan disappeared, the U.S. government launched a search that covered 250,000 square miles of ocean, but no trace of the plane was found.

Today's intricate equipment — even better than the tools that helped pinpoint the Titanic, Long says — gives searchers a better chance.

Long knows they won't find remains, but they could find such things as belt buckles or jewelry, he says.

If they do find anything, Putnam hopes it will make its way into a museum for all to see. He understands that the amazing Amelia belonged to the world.

"There was a woman who was an object lesson to others," he says.

"She was a role model to women. What she did took courage and stamina."

Putnam's father, part of the Putnam publishing family, was Earhart's promoter before they were married.

His mother was also a maverick who traveled the globe and liked adventure. Initially, at least, Earhart and his mother, Dorothy, were friends. Earhart dedicated her 1928 book "20 Hrs. 40 Min." to her.

Putnam, only 10 when his parents' marriage broke up, doesn't remember any marital turmoil. And he liked Earhart, "who was always nice to me."

"I don't know that it was love the way we think of it," says Putnam, describing their marriage. "But I think it was a happy, contented arrangement."

Putnam remembers his father's efforts to find his wife, long after the official search ended. In his desperate search, he offered cash rewards for information and was victimized by hoaxes.

She taught Putnam's older brother, David, to fly, and Putnam remembers flying with her.

"The noise — it's nothing like flying today," he says. "The banging and crashing sounds. There's no insulation. It was pretty darned primitive flying. It took a lot of stamina on her part."

"If they can find the plane, it would wipe out all the oddball stories," Putnam says. "Finally, it would all be put to rest."

# Queen Victoria's gunmaker opens first stateside store

BY GAIL SCHONTZLER

Bozeman Daily Chronicle

BOZEMAN, Mont. — English gunmaker Westley Richards made pistols and rifles that the British Army fired at Napoleon at Waterloo.

Since then, the firm, founded in 1812, has made fine hunting guns and rifles for Queen Victoria, the maharajahs of India and the famed safari hunters of Africa. So it's no wonder that people around Bozeman weren't quite sure what to make of it when the U.S. agent for the venerable gunmaker opened its only store in America here.

"By the time Lewis and Clark published their journals, Westley Richards had published four catalogs," said Jim Kilday, a partner in Westley Richards Agency USA.

The Westley Richards store itself has walls adorned with trophies of gazelle, greater kudu and long-necked giraffe. It sells Cartier boots and shoes made in Zimbabwe from the hides of cape buffalo, ostrich and hippopotamus.

And its four sales hold firearms worth more than \$1 million.

Kilday, 62, and his son, Kevin, 33, the agency's general manager, talked recently about why they have brought the romance

of fine English firearms to the wilds of Montana.

It was a childhood dream come true, Jim Kilday said, when the opportunity arose a year ago to go into business with the Clode family, which has operated Westley Richards in England for nearly 50 years.

They considered making their headquarters in Ireland or Italy or a major American city, Kilday said. "We picked Bozeman, because Bozeman is paradise — one of the great undiscovered places."

Ninety percent of their business of buying and selling firearms is done over the Internet. And their clients, many of them sportsmen from places like Texas and California, already like to travel to Bozeman to fish and hunt.

The Bozeman agency imports firearms from England and trades hundreds of used guns, which can sell for as much as \$85,000, for a 15 percent consignment fee. Most clients plan to actually shoot their guns, not just look at them as investments, Kevin Kilday said.

Westley Richards is the oldest of the big three English makers of fine guns, James Purdey & Sons having been founded in 1814 and Holland & Holland in 1835.

Today the English company builds just 50



AP

A .500 Nitro Express drop-lock rifle, displayed Dec. 24 at the Westley Richards store in Bozeman, Mont., shows some of the intricate engravings that are placed onto many of the Westley Richards rifles and shotguns. Richards made pistols and rifles that helped the British Army defeat Napoleon at Waterloo.

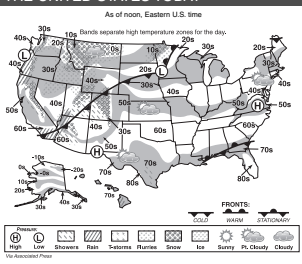
new firearms a year.

Each "bespoke gun" is made to order for an individual customer, who may wait two years or more to receive his prize.

A new shotgun sells for \$80,000, a new double rifle for \$90,000. The engraving

alone may cost \$30,000 to \$40,000 when in-laid with three colors of gold.

Today the parts are cut by machine, but they are still finely fitted by hand, much as they were in 1812. A thousand hours of work may go into each double rifle.



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# Kobe boosts L.A., tsunami aid effort

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Kobe Bryant was so money, and not just for the Los Angeles Lakers.

Bryant had 27 points and 10 assists in a 111-104 victory over the Houston Rockets on Friday night when every point he scored meant money for children who survived the tsunami in Southeast Asia.

Asked if he had a point total in mind before the game, Bryant said, "A hundred. There's a greater cost at stake."

Along with Bryant, Houston teammates Tracy McGrady and Bobby Sura donated \$1,000 per point to UNICEF, as did other NBA players Friday night. McGrady led the Rockets with 26 points.

"It's just a little donation to try to help out so they could get their lives back together," said Sura, who added 20 points. "It felt good."

In all, the three players contributed \$73,000. Bryant and McGrady shared a hug at the buzzer.

"It's for a great benefit," McGrady said. "I tried not to think about it during the game, but every time I made a shot, I was like, 'There's two thousand dollars, there's three thousand dollars.'"

The Lakers needed some charity of their own after losing two straight games at San Antonio and Dallas.

"It was a big game," Bryant said. "Our team is trying to fight to get into the playoffs as we are and they're right on our heels. We're fighting every game. It's an uphill battle for us, but we seem to rise to the challenge."

Four other Lakers scored in double figures, including Lamar Odom with 20 points and 12 rebounds and Caron Butler with 21 points.

Houston's Yao Ming scored 25 points before fouling out with 2:18 remaining.

Lakers coach Rudy Tomjanovich improved to 2-0 this season against his former team. The Lakers beat the Rockets 84-79 on Nov. 13 in Houston, when an emotional Tomjanovich was honored for his 34 years.

This time, Tomjanovich said, it was "a very big win. I called it a playoff game."

The Rockets cut their 24-point deficit to nine points at the start of the fourth quarter. But the Lakers responded with a 6-0 spurt and then Brian Cook hit consecutive three-pointers on assists by Bryant for a 95-77 lead with 9:30 remaining.

Helped by McGrady and Yao, the Rockets got within eight points with 5½ minutes left on McGrady's fast-break layup. Yao had four straight points before McGrady scored four in a row.

"That's a very heavy pack on your heels," Yao said about the 24-point hole. "People can say, 'Let's start over in the second half like it's zero-zero.' But you can't



Roundup

stop thinking about that pack on your back. We played with much better energy in the second half, but we paid for what we did in the first half."

**Kings 100, Hawks 97:** At Atlanta, Mike Bibby scored 31 points, including a clinching jumper with 11.7 seconds remaining, and Sacramento handed Atlanta its sixth straight loss.

The Hawks (5-26) have lost 11 of 12. Only New Orleans has a worse record.

Chris Webber bounced back from a 6-for-21 shooting performance in a loss to Toronto. He made his first six shots and finished 13-for-22 from the field for 28 points.

**Pistons 110, Celtics 104:** At Boston, Richard Hamilton scored 25 points, recovering from a dubious record-setting night by making two key baskets down the stretch.

Chauncey Billups scored 22 for the defending NBA champions, who lost to Memphis 101-79 on Thursday night as Hamilton went 10-for-21 from the field and 14-for-14 from the line to become the first player in NBA history to lead his team in scoring without missing a single basket.

**Nets 82, Warriors 72:** Vince Carter scored 22 points. Richard Jefferson added 20 and host New Jersey bounced back from two bad road losses to beat Golden State.

Jason Kidd added 13 points, 13 rebounds and nine assists as the Nets sent the Warriors to their fourth straight loss.

**Magic 111, Bobcats 91:** Hedo Turkoglu scored 22 points, fellow reserve Pat Garrity added 16 in a victory over visiting Charlotte.

Grant Hill scored 16 points and Tony Battie added 13 on 6-for-6 shooting for the Magic, who on Nov. 6 became the first team to lose to the Bobcats. Steve Francis had 10 points and tied his season high with 13 assists.

**Bucks 107, Raptors 105 (OT):** At Toronto, Desmond Mason had 23 points and Michael Redd scored 10 of his 15 points in the fourth quarter.

Jalen Rose sent the game over time with a driving layup at the buzzer, but Mason had five points in the extra period and Toronto's Morris Peterson missed a potential tying jumper with one second left.

**Timberwolves 89, 76ers 84:** Sam Cassell scored host Minnesota's first 14 points in the fourth quarter and finished with 26 as the Timberwolves ended a four-game losing streak with a victory over Philadelphia, which played without guard Allen Iverson.

Iverson, the NBA's leading scorer, sat out the game with a sprained right ankle sustained Wednesday at Utah. He was also



Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant dunks over Houston Rockets' Tracy McGrady during the final half Friday night in Los Angeles. Bryant and McGrady each pledged \$1,000 for every point they scored to tsunami relief.

bothered by the flu and a bruised left shoulder, but Sixers coach Jim O'Brien said it was the swollen ankle that kept Iverson out.

**Bulls 84, Jazz 78:** At Chicago, Rookie Luol Deng had 22 points and seven rebounds, and Eddy Curry added 21 points as the Bulls handed Utah its eighth consecutive loss.

Matt Harpring and Gordon Girick both had 13 points for Utah, which hasn't won since beating the Philadelphia 76ers 103-101 on Dec. 20.

Kirk Hinrich scored 12 points, and Ben Gordon and Andres Nocioni each had 11 for Chicago, which has won eight of its last 11 games.

**Heat 103, Trail Blazers 92:** Miami began its longest road trip of the season by getting double-doubles from Shaquille O'Neal and Dwyane Wade to defeat the injury-depleted Trail Blazers.

O'Neal had 28 points and 10 rebounds and Wade had 25 points and 12 assists for the Heat, who led by as many as 22 in winning for the 16th time in 17 games. Their only loss came Monday against the SuperSonics, and they can avenge it Sunday night at Seattle on the second stop of a five-game trip.

Miami has won eight straight road games.

# Carter's admission dismays Raptors

The Associated Press

TORONTO — Vince Carter's former teammates were dismayed Friday after hearing him admit he didn't always try his hardest when he played for the Toronto Raptors.

In an interview broadcast Thursday on TNT, network analyst John Thompson asked Carter

if he pushed himself as hard as he should have in Toronto.

"In years past, no," said Carter, acquired by the New Jersey Nets on Dec 17. "I was fortunate to have the talent... you get spoiled when you're able to do a lot of things. You see that you don't have to work at it."

"Now, with all the injuries, I have to work harder. I'm a little hungrier. Getting a fresh start has made me want to attack the basket."

Many have questioned Carter's dedication, his commitment to off-season conditioning and his desire to improve, but some where surprised to hear Carter acknowledge his shortcomings.

"It's a reflection on him and his character," Raptors guard Rafer Alston said. "Is he a guy that you can go to war with night in and night out? That's what a lot of people are going to be questioning."

Alston also suggested that Carter cost the Raptors games with his injuries to his right foot.

"It hurts," Alston said. "I don't know if a player who is considered an All-Star and has so many fan votes going into All-Star week wants to have that on his rap sheet."

Carter has played well since being traded for Alston Mourning, Aaron Williams, Eric Williams and two first-round draft picks. He is averaging 22.5 points in 40.3 minutes with New Jersey, compared to 15.9 points in 30.4 minutes with the Raptors.

Toronto guard Morris Peterson was shocked when he watched the interview on television.

"I can't imagine him being a professional player that's something I always pride myself on," Peterson said. "I can sleep better at night knowing I give it everything I have."

"You could tell he wasn't playing his best," Peterson said.

Toronto coach Sam Mitchell

didn't want to talk about Carter. "That's between Vince and his conscience," Mitchell said.

**Union, league pledge \$500,000-a-ko to relief effort**

NEW YORK — The NBA players' union has decided to donate \$500,000 to help victims of last month's Indian Ocean tsunami, and the NBA will match the gift, a league spokesman said Friday.

The donations are to be made to UNICEF, NBA spokesman Brian Flynn said.

Several NBA players decided to donate \$1,000 for every point they scored or assist they recorded in games played earlier this week, and many teams are donating money and collecting funds from fans.

**Police try to ID more fans**

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — Police are trying to identify more fans who were caught on camera throwing food or drinks or walking onto the court during the brawl at November's Detroit Pistons-Indiana Pacers game.

Auburn Hills police released photographs of at least seven different people they are trying to identify. Lt. James Manning said Friday that police would continue to charge them with violating a local ordinance that prohibits spectators at sporting events from walking on the playing surface or throwing things.

Oakland County Prosecutor David Gorceyca previously charged 10 people, including five Pacers, in the brawl with misdemeanor assault and battery. One fan, Bryant Jackson, also is charged with felonious assault. Two other fans have been charged under the city's ordinance.

**Abdur-Rahim, Miles join injured list**

PORTLAND, Ore. — The Portland Trail Blazers placed forwards Shafer Abdur-Rahim and Darius Miles on the injured list Friday and activated rookie center Ha Seung-Jin.

Abdur-Rahim, who has missed seven games because of elbow surgery in his right elbow, will have surgery Wednesday that could sideline him for five weeks.

Miles injured his left knee in the Blazers' loss on Wednesday to the Los Angeles Clippers. He is expected to be sidelined for up to two weeks.

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# Okafor off to good start for startup team

## Bobcats rookie proving he can carry offensive load for expansion franchise

BY JENNA FRYER  
The Associated Press

W CHARLOTTE, N.C. — When Emeka Okafor broke Shaquille O'Neal's rookie record for consecutive double-doubles, O'Neal softly — and sarcastically — clapped his hands.

"He gets the golf clap," O'Neal said. "There's only one me. There won't ever be another like me."

Maybe so, but there's no denying that Okafor has turned plenty of heads in his rookie season — just like O'Neal did on the way to becoming one of the 50 greatest players in NBA history.

Okafor, the No. 2 pick in the NBA Draft, has settled right into his role as the cornerstone of the expansion Bobcats and quickly caught the eye of his opponents.

He's been chosen as the NBA's rookie of the month the two times the award has been given this season, and his streak of 19 straight games in double figures in points and rebounds broke O'Neal's mark of 16.

The streak was broken this week in a loss to Cleveland, but Okafor picked right back up two nights later with 18 points and 10 rebounds in a victory over Minnesota in which Okafor spent most of the night guarding Kevin Garnett.

"If he continues to work and become more polished, he can be really special," Garnett said. "He's playing like an animal right now."

The Bobcats never wavered in their desire to draft Okafor. Coach and general manager Bernie Bickerstaff spent five days scouting last year on Connecticut's campus.

Okafor was everything the Bobcats wanted to build their franchise around. A proven winner, he led UConn to the national title last season and was the Most Outstanding Player of the NCAA tournament.

He's tough, strong, takes pride in defense and is extremely intelligent. An Academic All-American, Okafor graduated in three years with a degree in finance and a 3.8 grade point average.

Still, there were questions.

He sat out three games at

UConn last season with a back injury that had some NBA scouts concerned. And he was dogged by the perception he couldn't start on offense.

"The word coming out of college was he would be great defensively and on the boards but would struggle offensively," Miami coach Stan Van Gundy said. "He hasn't at all. He's got good, quick moves around the basket and he has shot the ball extremely well."

"He has proven to be an offensive force and he seems to be getting better and better."

Heading into the weekend, Okafor was averaging 15.8 points per game. His 11.4 rebounds per

*"The word coming out of college was he would be great defensively and on the boards but would struggle offensively. He hasn't at all."*

Stan Van Gundy  
Miami Heat coach

game ranked third in the NBA. If his productivity has caught some by surprise, Okafor isn't among them.

"I have no idea why people think that about me. I led [UConn] in scoring in a system that was not designed for me to score all the time," Okafor said. "I know I can score, and I don't really understand why people are surprised to see my scoring in the NBA."

Still, the questions were strong enough that the Orlando Magic passed on Okafor with the No. 1 pick in the draft. When the Magic called high schooler Dwight Howard's name on draft night, a crowd of about 14,000 at the Charlotte Coliseum erupted into cheers and Bobcats management left at a sigh of relief.

They had traded up from No. 4

to No. 2 to position themselves for a shot at Okafor, then had to hope the Magic wouldn't take him first.

The Bobcats would have been pleased with Howard, they insisted, but Okafor was a far better fit for a startup. They needed someone who could handle being the face of the franchise, and understand that every personnel move Charlotte makes is based around him and the long-term results it can produce.

"His maturity is important because he has the ability to see the big picture," Bickerstaff said. "We are trying to lay a foundation, and he sees the big picture. We're going to put this together, we're going to find the big pieces, and he makes it easier with his approach to the game."

Making the U.S. Olympic team was an extra bonus in Okafor's development. He didn't play much, but spent as much time learning about the NBA from his teammates as he did soaking up the history and culture in every country the team traveled to.

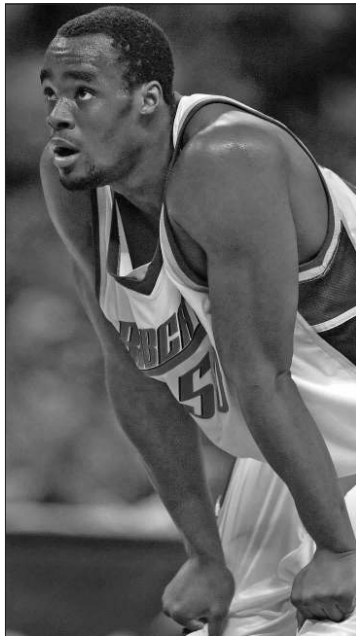
Bickerstaff said Okafor's willingness to observe and learn, and his attention to detail, will make him an NBA standout.

"He's a guy with a routine. If his routine is disoriented in any way, it impacts his game," Bickerstaff said. "All the great players I've been around, they had a routine. He gets it. A lot of pro players don't understand responsibility. You don't just show up because you are good."

Seattle guard Ray Allen, a UConn alum, is familiar with Okafor from watching the Huskies on TV. Even though he doesn't know him well personally, he said he never doubted Okafor would become charging out of the gate in the NBA.

"I tell everyone that playing for Jim Calhoun at UConn is the hardest thing you'll ever do. The NBA is easy compared to that," Allen said. "If he could play for Calhoun, and he could win a national championship for Calhoun, he was ready for this level and would have no problem breaking out the piston hole as a defensive specialist."

The question now is whether Okafor can sustain his level of play and win Rookie of the Year



Charlotte Bobcats' Emeka Okafor, above, recently broke Shaquille O'Neal's rookie record with double-doubles in 19 consecutive games.

honors. With an even temperament — Okafor said he only gets excited "about the big stuff, like winning a national championship and getting drafted" — he refuses to look that far ahead.

"It's way too early, we've got way too many games left for me

to be even thinking about that," Okafor said. "I could go out there and tank it from here on out and someone else could play great. So right now I am just worrying about doing my job and doing it as well as I can, and nothing else."

# Webber wonders whether New Yorkers would welcome him

BY CHRIS SHERIDAN  
The Associated Press

"Whisper in Isaiah's ear for me," Chris Webber said.

OK, Chris. Here it is: Past, Isaiah Thomas, listen up.

Webber has a few reservations, but he's definitely intrigued by the idea of playing for the New York Knicks.

Webber rolled through New York last week as the Sacramento Kings made the first stop on a four-game road trip, scoring 22 points in a seven-point victory that gave the Kings their 20th win

of the season.

Only six NBA teams entered the weekend with as many as 20 wins, and none of them would figure to be eager to part with a player as integral to their success as Webber is to the Kings. But Sacramento is a special case, still harboring the same unresolved chemistry issues that led Peja Stojakovic to ask for a trade over the summer.

And the team's financial commitment to Webber — about \$60

million over the next three years — is somewhat of a risk as he continues his comeback from microfracture surgery on his right knee. Webber freely acknowledges he's lost some of the explosiveness his knee used to provide, and he remains cautious when considering whether his knee will hold up over the long haul.

He also harbors some apprehension over whether he'd be welcomed in New York, a prospect that has troubled him since his 3½ years ago before re-signing with Sacramento.

"There's no player that's ever

touched a basketball that I've ever loved and admired more than Isaiah," Webber said of the Knicks president, who was winning NBA titles with the Pistons when Webber was growing up as a teenager in Detroit.

Thomas is not scared off by the amount of money remaining on Webber's contract, nor his 15 percent trade kicker, but he is known to be apprehensive about the long-term health of Webber's knee.

Asked at the Kings-Knicks game what type of piece he'd like to add to the Knicks, Thomas an-

swered "Shaquille O'Neal."

But Thomas privately remains fixated on Webber, seeing him as one of the final major pieces to complete a transformation of a roster to which he's already added Stephen Marbury, Jamal Crawford, Tim Thomas, Nazr Mohammed and rookie Trevor Ariza, who has supplanted Penny Hardaway — another Thomas acquisition — as the backup shooting guard behind Allan Houston during Crawford's current injury list absence.







# Few secrets between rivals

## Playoff game expected to mirror two regular-season nail-biters

BY ARNIE STAPLETON  
The Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Ryan Longwell expects Sunday's showdown between the evenly matched Minnesota Vikings and Green Bay Packers to come down to a last-second field goal.

And why not? Both times they played in the regular season, Green Bay won 34-31 on field goals by Longwell as time expired, capping impressive 2-minute drives by Brett Favre.

Longwell nailed a 33-yarder on Nov. 14 at Lambeau Field and a 29-yarder on Christmas Eve at Minneapolis that gave the Packers their third straight NFL North crown.

The difference in Sunday's first-round playoff game could be a kicker's toe yet again.

"I think so," Longwell said. "You look at them, the talent is very equal. They had a tough stretch at the end, but we had a tough stretch at the beginning. So, you look at our seasons and they're very similar. I just think it sets up for an interesting game because you just don't know what you're going to get from a rivalry like this."

Despite their sweep, the Packers aren't overconfident about the matchup. They know they easily could have lost the battle to Minnesota, but the difference between the teams is so thin.

Both have prolific passing games with star wide receivers, superior pass protection and multi-talented offensive backfields to

keep opponents guessing. Each also sports a banged-up defense, a suspect secondary, a tendency to tackle poorly and a penchant for penalties.

Green Bay ranks first in the NFC in total offense and second in passing. Minnesota ranks first in the NFC in passing and second in total offense.

The Packers' defense was 25th in the NFL, the Vikings' 28th.

Of the eight teams playing in the first round of the playoffs, Green Bay and Minnesota have faced each other more times than any other set of opponents. And no matchup features a series as close as the Packers' 44-42 edge over the Vikings.

"We know those guys, they know us. We know what they do, they know what we do," Favre said.

The Packers became the ninth team in league history to reach the postseason after posting a 1-4 record, and the Vikings made it despite finishing 3-7 — so momentum is on Green Bay's side.

But the season sweep "really wouldn't matter a whole lot if we don't beat them in this game," Favre said. "They can easily win the ballgame just as well as we could. We just played. We know our own team well. As you can know a team. There won't be a whole lot of tricks up either team's sleeves. It's your goods against their goods."

Vikings kicker Morten Andersen, who said he went ice fishing



Minnesota Vikings at Packers

10:30 p.m. Sunday:  
AFN-Atlantic, Pacific  
and AFN Radio

Game time is Central European.

last week to prepare for the bitter cold, also expects a kicker to be lining up for another game-winner on Sunday, and he hopes this time it's not Longwell.

"He's had enough, hasn't he?" Andersen said.

Longwell has four game-winning field goals in the past seven weeks, including one against Detroit in frigid conditions like those expected Sunday.

"You have to prepare for that every week and especially in the playoffs," Longwell said. "The teams are just so evenly matched and so equally talented in the playoffs that you've got to prepare for close games."

Andersen couldn't agree more. "Playoffs are always pretty close. And usually the kicking game plays a vital role in the outcome."

Vikings coach Mike Tice is kicking himself over scoring too quickly at the end of both regular-season games against the Packers, thus giving Favre a chance to come back — something he's done 34 times in the fourth quarter during his NFL career.

"We know we have to beat Brett Favre, not give him the ball last," Tice said. "If we can improve by one play or score a little later, who knows how this thing's going to turn out?"

## League refuses to rescind warning to Denver's Lynch

By EDDIE PELLIS  
The Associated Press

DENVER — The NFL refused Friday to retract wording in a letter to Broncos safety John Lynch that warned he could be ejected for making another illegal hit like the one that knocked Colts tight end Dallas Clark out of last Sunday's game. The league, fined Lynch \$75,000 for the helmet-to-helmet hit. Along with the fine, NFL disciplinary Gene Washington sent a letter reminding Lynch and informing him that officials for Sunday's playoff game at Indianapolis have been alerted to keep an eye on Lynch and to eject him if warranted.

Lynch's attorney, Harvey Steinberg, wrote a letter to the NFL appealing the fine and demanding that language threatening ejection be rescinded.

"We fear that the integrity of this contest will be impacted adversely here by the influence on the impartiality of the officiating crew," Steinberg wrote in a letter obtained by The Denver Post.

On Friday, a league spokesman said Art Shell, the NFL's senior vice president of football operations, replied to Steinberg.

"He reviewed his points, believes Gene Washington's letter is appropriate, and therefore will not be making a retraction," the spokesman said.

## Slow-down: Broncos gear up for machine-like Manning

SLOW-DOWN, FROM BACK PAGE

Turf in the NFC Championship Game in January 2000.

The Buccaneers limited them to 11 yards in the first half.

In Super Bowl XXXVII, another MVP quarterback, Rich Gannon, led another highly touted offense, the Oakland Raiders, that was deemed unstoppable by interceptions later, including three for touchdowns, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers were holding the Vince Lombardi Trophy.

But there have been games in which Denver's defense has been stopped, but No. 1 offenses can't be stopped, but I think if you play great defense, it's a tremendous equalizer," Lynch said.

■ Avoid missed assignments/tackles: The last two weeks of the regular season have showcased Denver at its relative best, though matters arguably might have been different had the Tennessee Titans' Steve McNair and Manning played more than a combined three snaps.

The Titans and Colts combined for 353 yards, 18 first downs and 30 points, helping the Broncos finish ranked fourth in total defense.

But there have been games in which Denver often has faked lost — at Cincinnati, against Atlanta, late at home against Oakland and at Kansas City.

"I know we've got the talent to match up with them, that's no problem," Denver cornerback Champ Bailey said. "We've got to control it. If we're in position with the athletes that we have, there's no one that can beat us. If you get us out of position, we're just like any other defense, good or bad."

■ Confusion, plus confusions: Manning doesn't do all those pre-snap histrionics for nothing. He wants the defense to give away its alignment prematurely, then attack its weakness.

The Broncos have to mix up things without mixing up their selves.

"Whatever we do, we've just got to do it well," Bailey said. "If it's cover-2, zone blitz or man-to-man. We've just got to do it well."

The Broncos were forced to play a lot of zone coverages in last year's playoff game because of a depleted secondary.

They appear better suited to do more of this type, particularly with the addition of Bailey.

"Whether we do or not, we've got to," Coyer said.

And expect the Broncos to try to guard against the Colts receiving and attack Manning as much as possible with frequent zone blitzes.

■ There are other areas of concern.

Edgerrin James ran for 1,548 yards and was second in the NFL in yards per carry (4.8) in 2004. And tight ends Marcus Pollard and Dallas Clark are no slouches, either.

Even so, Coyer did manage a smile while discussing all the problems Indianapolis can create.

"You know what?" he said, eyes widening. "I think it's going to be fun."

Denver (10-6) at Indianapolis (12-4)

OPENING LINE — Colts by 7.

RECORD VS. SPREAD — Broncos 6-7.

COLTS 9-6.

SERIES RECORD — Broncos lead 11-5.

OPENING LINE — Colts by 10.

RECORD VS. SPREAD — Broncos beat Colts 31-14 on Dec. 2 at Denver.

LAST POSTSEASON MEETING — Colts beat Broncos 40-14 on Jan. 4, 2004, at Indianapolis in AFC wild-card game.

LAST MEETING — Broncos beat Colts 33-14.

COLTS OFFENSE — OVERALL (5).

RUSH (4), PASS (6).

PACKERS OFFENSE — OVERALL (4).

RUSH (4), PASS (6).

COLTS DEFENSE — OVERALL (29), RUSH (24), PASS (29).

PACKERS DEFENSE — OVERALL (25), RUSH (24), PASS (25).

KEY MATCHUP — Broncos DE Reggie Hayward vs. Colts QB Peyton Manning.

Manning had one of the most dominant seasons in NFL history, setting records with 49 TD passes and a 121.1 passer rating.

He played only one series without throwing two passes, and as a result finished third in the league with 452 yards passing. He was sacked only 13 times all season.

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Minnesota (8-8) at Green Bay (10-6)

OPENING LINE — Packers by 7.

RECORD VS. SPREAD — Packers lead 41-21.

Packers 7-6.

SERIES RECORD — Packers lead 44-21.

LAST MEETING — Packers beat Vikings 34-31 on Nov. 14 at Lambeau Field.

LAST POSTSEASON MEETING — First meeting.

MINNESOTA — Vikings lost to Redskins 21-18.

GREEN BAY — Packers beat Bears 31-14.

VIKINGS OFFENSE — OVERALL (4).

RUSH (10), PASS (27).

PACKERS OFFENSE — OVERALL (28).

RUSH (21), PASS (27).

PACKERS DEFENSE — OVERALL (31).

RUSH (10), PASS (33).

MINNESOTA DEFENSE — OVERALL (25).

RUSH (14), PASS (25).

KEY MATCHUP — Vikings DT Kevin Williams vs. Packers RB Adrian Peterson.

Williams had one of the most dominant seasons in NFL history, setting records with 49 TD passes and a 121.1 passer rating.

He played only one series without throwing two passes, and as a result finished third in the league with 452 yards passing. He was sacked only 13 times all season.

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## Ferguson recovers quickly but unlikely to play Sunday

By ARNIE STAPLETON  
The Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — There's a chance Robert Ferguson will be back in the lineup as the receiver Robert Ferguson could play Sunday, just three weeks after a clothesline hit by Jacksonville's Donovan Darius left him temporarily paralyzed.

Green Bay coach Mike Sherman upgraded Ferguson from doubtful to questionable for Sunday's game against Minnesota after Ferguson performed well during Friday's practice, his first workout since the injury.

Ferguson, however, hasn't had any contact yet, and that will probably prevent him from suiting up Sunday. The more likely scenario is for him to play next week at Atlanta's game against the Packers win.

Even if he were to play against the Vikings, Sherman said Ferguson would not return kicks.

Ferguson is still experiencing headaches but has regained sensation and strength in his extremities, and team doctors cleared him this week to return to the field.

His new helmet was equipped with a visor to cut down on glare that continues to bother him. His chin snap and face mask



Green Bay's Robert Ferguson practiced for the first time Friday after absorbing the hit by Jacksonville's Donovan Darius on Dec. 19.

was broken on the old helmet, which was stripped from his head when he was hit Dec. 19 by Darius, drawing a 15-yard penalty, an ejection and a \$75,000 fine.

Ferguson said he appreciated a phone call from Darius in the hospital, but he didn't like Jacksonville coach Jack Del Rio telling him to "that guy" instead of by name while defending his safety over the vicious hit.

# Schottenheimer earns AP award

By BARRY WILNER  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Marty Schottenheimer's guidance of one of the great turnarounds in NFL history won him The Associated Press 2004 NFL Coach of the Year award.

Schottenheimer took the San Diego Chargers from tailender to division champion, from a 4-12 embarrassment to a 12-4 power that was to host the New York Jets in a playoff game Saturday night. The 61-year-old, who also has worked in Cleveland, Kansas City and Washington, did his best work of an 18½-season head coaching career.

"There is a great sense of satisfaction when you're able to get things going in the right direction," said Schottenheimer, who received 27% of the 48 votes from a national panel of writers and broadcasters who cover pro football. "I always prided myself on one thing—I think I'm a teacher. It's fun to see your players listen and work together to apply the basic philosophies and concepts that are important to success."

Many of Schottenheimer's team have done that. He's coached division winners in Cleveland, where he was the head man from mid-1980s through 1988, and in Kansas City (1989-98). He even had an 8-8 record in his one season in Washington, and considering how Redskins coaches have done for owner Daniel Snyder, that was impressive, too.

But his third season in San Diego has been charmed. And perhaps a bit lucky, because Schottenheimer was looking for a different quarterback and hoped to go with first-round draft pick Phillip Rivers.

When Rivers held out for half of training camp, Schottenheimer stuck with Drew Brees. Brees wound up as Comeback Player of

*"I always pride myself on one thing—I think I'm a teacher. It's fun to see your players listen and work together to apply the basic philosophies and concepts that are important to success."*

**Marty Schottenheimer**  
San Diego Chargers coach

the Year and Schottenheimer became Coach of the Year for the first time.

His players say Schottenheimer's decision to form a players council and ease up in practices, as well as remodeling the locker room, made a big difference.

"I've seen it all year," said linebacker Donnie Edwards, who also played for Schottenheimer in Kansas City. "The way he's changed his coaching to understand the players and let the players understand the coaches — so it's a two-way street now."

"There have been so many things that have changed. It's all been for the best. I'm really excited about him, because he came into the team with great enthusiasm and great energy and it transferred over right to us as players, and we've been able to translate that onto the field."

**Ravens' Reed chosen as Defensive Player of Year**

NEW YORK — Ed Reed wasn't



San Diego Chargers coach Marty Schottenheimer, who guided his team to a 12-4 record and a division title after a 4-12 record, was voted The Associated Press Coach of the Year.

just the best defensive player on the Baltimore Ravens — no small feat with Ray Lewis as a teammate — he was the best defender in the NFL this season.

The Ravens safety outplayed even his illustrious buddy and training partner in winning The Associated Press 2004 Defensive Player of the Year award. No one was more impressed than Lewis.

"He deserves it," said the two-time winner of the honor. "He prepares like a coach. He loves to play, period. He brings joy to work. He's tough and smart."

Reed showed just how tough, smart, resourceful and skilled he is by dominating games from the safety position. Usually, it's linebackers such as Lewis or ends who get lots of sacks or cornerbacks who shut down opponents who control games.

But Reed, in his third season with the University of Miami, also Lewis' college — had a greater impact than any other defender.

He earned 20 votes from a national panel of writers and broadcasters who cover pro football, beating Steelers linebacker James Farrior, who had 16. He is the first safety to win the award in 20 years.

## Reed will return for sixth year with Saints

The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Jim Haslett has been told by New Orleans Saints owner Tom Benson that he will return for a sixth season as coach.

Haslett's five-year record of 42-38 is the second best in team history behind Jim Mora's 53-78 mark. The Saints, however, have missed the playoffs four straight years. This season, New Orleans started 4-8 but won its final four games to finish 8-8.

"There's been a lot of speculation about the coach the whole year, and we wanted to get that behind us as quickly as possible," general manager Mickey Loomis said. "We're strongly behind

Jim. He's our coach. We strongly believe that he is going to lead this team to a championship."

Haslett declined comment Saturday.

Loomis said Benson met with Haslett on Friday in West Palm Beach, Fla., where the owner has been on vacation. Loomis also met with Haslett during the week.

"Jim and I met several times during the week to talk about things we need to improve on and set the tone for the next year," Loomis said. "Jim had to get some feelings on the table and we had to get that behind us."

Haslett has two years remaining on a five-year contract that pays him an average of \$3 million a season.

# Astros await word on Beltran; Indians, Millwood reach deal

RONALD BLUM  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Houston Astros will find out shortly whether they'll keep Carlos Beltran.

Competing against the New York Mets and perhaps other teams, the Astros faced a Saturday midnight EST deadline to re-sign the speedy center fielder who helped Houston come within a win of its first World Series appearance.

Beltran, 27, has been seeking a contract in excess of \$100 million. Astros owner Drayton McLane spoke with Beltran's agent, Scott Boras, on Saturday morning.

"There's been no new developments," Astros spokesman Jimmy Stanton said. "There's nothing new to report... I'll be a long day."

After Saturday, the Astros would be unable to sign Beltran until May 1.

Also Friday, the Los Angeles Dodgers closed in on a contract with Red Sox postseason hero Derek Lowe worth about \$36 million over four years and finalized their \$24 million, three-year deal to keep left-hander Odalis Perez.

"I can't comment yet — saying yes or saying no," Lowe said from his home in Fort Myers, Fla., when asked about a possible future with the Dodgers.

Los Angeles was holding off finalizing a contract with Lowe, wanting first to complete a deal that would send Shawn Green to Arizona, a lawyer involved in those talks said on condition of anonymity.

Green, who is due to earn \$16 million this season, did not reach an agreement with the Diamondbacks on a contract extension before Thursday's deadline, but Arizona and the Dodgers requested a new window Friday night. Green and the Diamondbacks agreed to be given until Monday to agree to an extension that would allow the teams to finalize a revised trade.

"It's a slightly different deal," Diamondbacks general partner Ken Kendrick said. "We hope we are able to come to terms with Shawn. We were relatively close on certain things and never really had a chance to get to other things."

Dodgers General Manager Paul DePodesta confirmed the matter went to the commissioner's office, but he would not elaborate.

Lowe was 14-12 with a 5.42 ERA in 33 starts for Boston last season. But he was 3-0 with a 1.06 ERA in four games during the postseason, three of them starts. He was the winner in the final game of all three postseason series against the Angels, Yankees and Cardinals — as the Red Sox won their first World Series in 86 years.

About the possibility of pitch-

ing for the Dodgers, Lowe said: "They won their division last year. Any time you can go to a team that has won, or has a chance to win, it definitely would be a good situation."

Lowe said he was disappointed the team never made him an offer to return, but added: "I knew it was heading down that path late in the season. You realize that it's a business. It was definitely an enjoyable place to play. I have nothing but good things and positive things to say about playing there."

Kevin Millwood, who like Beltran and Lowe is represented by Boras, finalized a 37 million, one-year contract with the Cleveland Indians on Saturday.

Millwood is guaranteed \$3 million in salary. He also gets a \$4 million signing bonus, but that money is contingent on his not spending more than 20 days on the disabled list for a shoulder or elbow injury sustained while pitching — not fielding or batting.

Millwood also can earn an additional \$1 million in performance bonuses, getting the full amount if he makes 34 starts or pitches 215 innings.

If Millwood spends 21 or more days on the DL for an injury to his shoulder or elbow sustained while pitching, he would lose 1/13rd of the signing bonus for each day on the DL, including the first 20. That reduction calculates to \$21,857 per day.

"Kevin is a proven, front-of-rotation veteran starting pitcher who has considerable experience in the playoff environment," Indians General Manager Mark Shapiro said. "That experience will serve as an invaluable resource to our young pitchers."

While waiting for Beltran's decision, the Mets reached a preliminary agreement on a one-year contract with infielder Miguel Cairo worth about \$900,000.

Left-hander Chris Hammond and the San Diego Padres agreed to a \$750,000, one-year contract that is contingent on the reliever's passing a physical next week.

Gabe White, another left-handed reliever, agreed to a \$600,000, one-year contract with the Atlanta Braves.

Designated hitter Ruben Sierra is staying with the Yankees, agreeing Saturday to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract, and facing the Saturday deadline to re-sign were pitcher Pedro Astacio and first baseman Dave McCarty (Boston), catcher Brent Mayne (Los Angeles) and outfielder Lou Glavine (Philadelphia). All but Glavine were considering re-signing.

Among players eligible for salary arbitration, Detroit first baseman Carlos Guillen agreed to a one-year contract worth \$2,750,000.

There are 163 players who remain eligible to file by Jan. 14.

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## SPORTS



Memphis beats league's worst team to creep above .500 and extend winning streak to six, Page 27

# Denver's slow-down tactics

**Broncos eager to make amends against Colts' prolific offense**

By LEE RASIZER  
Rocky Mountain News

All the pleasanties had just been handed out and Larry Coyer had more than given the Indianapolis Colts their due Wednesday. Peyton Manning: greatest player in the game today.

The coaching staff that guides him: brilliant.

The receivers who catch Manning's passes: best in football as a group.

But as the Denver Broncos defensive coordinator kept talking to reporters flanking him, his face began to redden.

The intensity level began rising. And about six questions in, the usually serene Coyer erupted.

Enough about what the Colts' top-ranked offense is capable of doing. Instead, he wanted to chat about Denver having what it takes to slow them down in the teams' wild-card playoff matchup Sunday at the RCA Dome.

"They are what they are. They're very good. And we are what we are," Coyer said. "Now we have to go raise hell and see who wins. And we're going to raise mortal hell, OK? And we'll find out. That's all I know to say. ... All the other stuff is [expletive] and I won't listen to it. We'll see. Let's wait until the game, then make our comments."

The only statement the Broncos defense made in its playoff meeting at Indianapolis in January 2004 was that it wasn't ready for raising anything but the Colts' points total.

Manning completed 12 passes for 10 or more yards, including touchdowns of 31, 46, 23 and 87 yards. Receivers Marvin Harrison and Brandon Stokley each had 100-yard performances for the first time in playoff history. And that occurred in the first half.



**7 p.m. Sunday:**  
AFN-Atlantic, Pacific  
and AFN-Radio

Game time is Central European.



Broncos safety John Lynch (47) lowers the boom on Colts tight end Dallas Clark during Sunday's game in Denver. Lynch, who was fined \$75,000 by the NFL for the helmet-to-helmet hit, was added to the Broncos secondary, along with Champ Bailey, after Denver was torched 41-10 in the playoffs last year in Indianapolis.

The Broncos (10-6) vow there won't be a repeat this time.

"I promise you one thing," Broncos defensive tackle Ellis Johnson said. "We will show up in Indianapolis to play on Sunday."

Once they arrive, how do they figure to handle the league's No. 2 offense?

There are a few ways the Broncos will enhance their chances:

■ Turn up the intensity: After Denver's playoff loss, Coyer was incredulous that the defense could be so flat emotionally.

"A whole bunch of this game is intensity," he said Wednesday. "This is the real deal. You're one-and-done and that's the way it is until it's over. And if you ain't ready to put it all out there, we're in trouble."



Against Denver in last year's playoffs, Peyton Manning completed 22 of 26 passes for 377 yards, five TDs and no interceptions.

■ Don't fall into the hype: The Colts average 32.6 points, boast three 1,000-yard receivers and the league's likely Most Valuable Player in Manning, so they already have gotten Denver's attention.

"To look at it on paper, it's kind of like, 'Man that can't be right,'" Johnson said.

Still, it doesn't mean Indianapolis is unbeatable.

"It's just a matter of slowing them down to a point," Johnson said.

The comments the Broncos are hearing this week, that they have little chance of doing just that, are familiar to safety John Lynch.

At Tampa Bay, he played against the St. Louis Rams' high-powered "Greatest Show on

SEE SLOW-DOWN ON PAGE 30



**Forecast at Lambeau Field calls for another bitterly close call between rivals**

Page 30



**Productive Okafor the centerpiece of Bobcats' inaugural season**

Page 28



**World No. 1 Singh parlays scalding start into two-shot lead in Hawaii**

Page 29

**Chargers' Schottenheimer selected NFL coach of the year** Page 31